ARC Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences:

Changes, Statistics, etc.

Professor Phyllis Tharenou
Executive Director
Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
Presentation, Griffith University, 22nd May 2009
Available at
http://www.arc.gov.au/media/ARC_Presentations.htm
Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Disciplines of:

- Education
- Behavioural & Cognitive Sciences: Psychology, Linguistics, Cognitive Sciences
- Geography, Demography,
- Sociology, Social Work
- Policy and Administration and Political Science
- Economics, Econometrics
- Accounting, Banking
- Commerce, Management, Tourism & Services: eg Accounting, Management, Marketing, Tourism, Transportation, Health
National Competitive Grants Program
(FY 08/09 $596M)

Discovery (DP, DIRD, Future Fellows, Aust. Laureate Fellows, Superscience Fellows)
Excellent research by individuals and teams
(FY $333M)

Linkage (LP, LIEF)
Collaborative research and infrastructure use - national & international
(FY $169M)

Centres
National centres of research excellence
(FY $94M)
Major ARC Schemes

- **Discovery Projects** –
  - excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams
- **Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development** –
  - develop research expertise of indigenous Australians
- **Australian Laureate Fellows** -
  - for outstanding researchers to stay in or return to Oz
- **Future Fellows** –
  - rewards best mid-career Australian researchers and outstanding international researchers

- **Linkage Projects** –
  - collaborative research between universities and industry/government/community
- **Centres of Excellence** – large research teams conducting focussed, sustained investigations on important challenging problems
- **Linkage infrastructure, equipment and facilities (LIEF)** –
  - Collaboration across unis & partner orgs to fund major infrastructure
Desirables: Minister Carr
March 2009

- Applications to build on university’s research strengths, think strategically, play to strengths
- Collaboration needed between universities and business and public sector research agencies
- Develop PhDs, support research students
- Collaborate across universities, especially international collaboration by researchers
- Collaboration across natural and human sciences
The Future

• ARC consolidating to fewer, larger schemes with maximum flexibility
  – Will no longer have
    • ARC Networks scheme
    • Social Sciences Collaboration scheme & ARC International Fellowships scheme

• Increased focus on outcomes
  – Reporting of outcomes of prior grant funding
  – Excellence in Research in Australia evaluation

• Federal budget –
  – Superscience Fellowships
08-09-10 ARC Policy Changes

• International collaboration
  – *Discovery Projects* eg new international objective & support

• New ways of building research capacity – 2008 for 2009
  – *Future Fellows*
  – *Australian Laureate Fellows*

• Enhancing research of Indigenous scholars
  – *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development scheme*
    • New *Australian Research Fellows – Indigenous*
    • *AIATSIS* added as an eligible organization

• Centres to have a new round in 2010/11

• Evaluation changes:
  – *ERA trials PCE July, HCA August*
Distribution of International Collaboration 2002-2008: ARC Funded Projects

- USA: 23.4%
- UK: 14.7%
- Germany: 8.0%
- Canada: 5.7%
- France: 5.7%
- Japan: 5.1%
- China: 3.5%
- NZ: 3.1%
- Italy: 2.6%
- N’lands: 2.5%
- Other: 25.6%
Major Research Fields – International Collaboration
2002-2008
ARC Funded Projects
# DP Selection Criteria

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Criteria</th>
<th>Discovery</th>
<th>Linkage</th>
<th>Future Fellows</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Researcher Track Record</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Significance &amp; Innovation</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Quality</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Approach</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Benefit</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Research Priority</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Industry Partner Commitment</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Collaboration</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Success Rate</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>35-50%</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Changes to *Discovery Scheme* 2009 for 2010

- New ‘International Collaboration Awards’
  - 1 month minimum to 6 months maximum
  - For Oz CIs/Fellows & Overseas PIs to work together on a project
  - Covers travel and subsistence up to $40,000 - prorata

- Travel for overseas PIs or other research personnel if directly justified against doing the project -
  - 1 per annum return economy to and from Oz to work on project

- Always have had:
  - PhD stipends for overseas candidates
  - Fellows as overseas candidates - APDs, ARFs/QE11s/ APFs
  - PIs living overseas (but can now request travel to & from Oz)

- AIATSIS – eligible Administering Organisation
## Discovery Projects: No. of Applications & Results

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ARC as a whole</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>No.</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>3,441</td>
<td>3,766</td>
<td>4,047</td>
<td>4,121</td>
<td>4,164</td>
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<tr>
<td>No. funded</td>
<td>875</td>
<td>1,053</td>
<td>917</td>
<td>822</td>
<td>878</td>
<td>845</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
<td>237.9 million</td>
<td>297.5 million</td>
<td>273.6 million</td>
<td>274.7 million</td>
<td>300.8 million</td>
<td>288.4 million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>ARC Success Rate</strong></td>
<td>27.0%</td>
<td>30.9%</td>
<td>24.5%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
<td>21.4%</td>
<td>20.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SBE Success Rate</strong></td>
<td>31.0%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>22.0%</td>
<td>24.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Discovery Projects**

- Av. duration of funded grants = **Just over 3 years**
- Av. 1st year funds gained: $116k = **67%** of request
  - SBE $88.9k = **66%** of request
- Av. funds gained for total project = **$341k** in 2009
- ECR-only applications (ECR target = 15% of 1st year funds):
  - 2009 Overall Success Rate = **15.5%**; For SBE = **20%**
  - % of income overall = **10.2%**; For SBE = **12.7%**
- Applications including ECRs
  - 2009 Success Rate Overall = **20%**; For SBE = **24%**
  - Average no. assessments per proposal = **5** (2 CoE, 2 Oz Reader, 1 Int)
    - SBE Aver. No = **5.08**, SD = **0.81**
  - Average no. Chief Investigators per funded grant = **2**;
    - SBE = **Just over 2** (eg 2.35)
Discovery Projects

■ Fellowships –

Need good-excellent scores on: (1) project and (2) Fellow

■ Aust. Postdoc Fellowships (≤ 3 years since PhD) -
  2009 Success Rate = 17%: SBE = 18.3%

■ Aust. Research Fellows/Queen Elizabeth II Fellows -
  ≤ 8 years since PhD, also ≤ 13 years if previously had ARF/QEII
  • 2009 Success Rate = 15.1%: SBE = 20%

■ Aust. Professorial Fellowships - ≤ 13 years since PhD
  • 2009 Success Rate = 14.3%: SBE = 14.3%
## No. & Success Rate of ECR-Only Proposals

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disciplines</th>
<th>ECR-Only Proposals Received</th>
<th>ECR-Only Proposals Approved for Funding</th>
<th>Success Rate</th>
<th>ECR-Only Proposals: % of Total Funding approved for 2009</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14.0%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
<td>5.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>154</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>12.3%</td>
<td>13.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>23.2%</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCG</td>
<td>151</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>13.9%</td>
<td>11.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>682</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>15.5%</td>
<td>10.2%</td>
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</table>
## Success Rates of Proposals with 1 or More Self-Nominated ECRs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
<th>2009</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>28.5%</td>
<td>23.3%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
<td>17.2%</td>
<td>16.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>30.2%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>23.0%</td>
<td>20.0%</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>22.6%</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
<td>15.3%</td>
<td>15.2%</td>
<td>18.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>29.5%</td>
<td>22.5%</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
<td>19.5%</td>
<td>20.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PCG</td>
<td>29.8%</td>
<td>21.3%</td>
<td>19.0%</td>
<td>22.8%</td>
<td>18.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>25.0%</td>
<td>20.3%</td>
<td>12.7%</td>
<td>20.6%</td>
<td>23.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>All</strong></td>
<td><strong>27.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>21.0%</strong></td>
<td><strong>17.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.3%</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.9%</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Changes to Funding Rules

- Overseas higher education organisations eligible as Partner Organisations - need at least 1 Australian Partner Organisation
  - Could always have overseas organisations as partners

- Citizenship/residency requirements for APA-I (PhD scholarships) removed for 2008

- CIs, PIs, APDIs & research support personnel can have funds for domestic & international travel for the project

- $2m/year Upper limit to each proposal in exceptional cases (*Linkage Projects* normally $500K total maximum)

- AIATSIS – eligible Administering Organisation

- Success Rates Last 7 Rounds:
  - 36.7%, 35.7%, 42.9%, 46.0%, 47.6%, 42.7%, 49.4%
**Linkage Projects**

- Av. duration of funded grants = **Just over 3 years**
- Av. 1st year funds gained 2009 Rd1: $134k - 71% of request
  - SBE $95,18k: 71% of request
- Av. funds gained for total project 2009 Rd1= $329k in 2009
- **Average no. of chief investigators per funded grant = Just under 3 (2.7/2.8); SBE Over 3.33/3.53**

- **Fellowships** – Need top project scores and fellow score (TR)
  - APAI - 2009 Success Rate 34%/34%: SBE 36%/33%
  - APAI _IT (quota of 50)- 2009 Success Rate 74%/91%
  - Aust. Postdoc Fellows Industry - 2009 Success Rate 43%/52%: SBE 50%/87%
- Av. funding gained by Rural & Regional apps= **38.7%; SBE 36%**
Partner Organization Contribution by sector

- Commonwealth Government 5%
- State & Local Government 29%
- International 1%
- Nonprofit Australian 12%
- Nonprofit International 4%
- Private company Australian 33%
- International company Australian 18%
# Linkage Projects 2009
## Round 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline Group</th>
<th>Proposals received</th>
<th>Proposals approved</th>
<th>Success rate %</th>
<th>Requested funds over project life (all proposals) $ million</th>
<th>Indicative funds over project life (approved) $ million</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>43.5%</td>
<td>42.21</td>
<td>14.42</td>
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<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>55.0%</td>
<td>42.22</td>
<td>17.05</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>56.3%</td>
<td>11.98</td>
<td>5.31</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>53.3%</td>
<td>18.16</td>
<td>8.26</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCG</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>41%</td>
<td>14.15</td>
<td>6.92</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>140</td>
<td>68</td>
<td><strong>48.6%</strong></td>
<td><strong>50.08</strong></td>
<td><strong>19.74</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>441</td>
<td>218</td>
<td><strong>49.4%</strong></td>
<td><strong>178.81</strong></td>
<td><strong>72.00</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Discipline Group</td>
<td>Proposals received</td>
<td>Proposals approved</td>
<td>Success rate</td>
<td>Requested funds over project life (all proposals) $ million</td>
<td>Indicative funds over project life (approved) $ million</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSB</td>
<td>93</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>41.9%</td>
<td>36.54</td>
<td>13.37</td>
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<tr>
<td>EE</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>46.7%</td>
<td>45.03</td>
<td>14.40</td>
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<tr>
<td>HCA</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>40.5%</td>
<td>10.14</td>
<td>3.98</td>
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<tr>
<td>MIC</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>37.5%</td>
<td>26.26</td>
<td>7.88</td>
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<tr>
<td>PCG</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>48.1%</td>
<td>21.66</td>
<td>7.56</td>
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<tr>
<td>SBE</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>58</td>
<td><strong>40.8%</strong></td>
<td><strong>43.27</strong></td>
<td><strong>16.50</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>All</td>
<td>487</td>
<td>208</td>
<td>42.7%</td>
<td>182.91</td>
<td>63.71</td>
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</table>
Partner Organisation Views: Why Use LP Scheme?

- **Chance of success is reasonably high**: 47% Important, 10% Not Important
- **Possible to obtain larger grants**: 76% Important, 2% Not Important
- **Access to highly skilled research personnel**: 88% Important, 2% Not Important
- **Opportunity to build long-term relationships with uni researchers**: 92% Important, 2% Not Important

Worthington Di Marzio Research Pty Ltd, 2006
Future Fellowships

- $844m scheme – 2009-2013 – Can apply twice in the period
- 200, 4-year fellowships over next 5 years = 1000
- Mid-career researchers (5-15 years post-PhD)
- Australian and international applicants
- Salaries up to $140K (3 levels) + $50K pa for infrastructure, equipment, travel & relocation costs directly related to the research
- Has selection criteria Strategic Alignment’ & ‘Collaboration’.
  - List of Research Strengths submitted by Administering Org.
  - Candidates must demonstrate capacity to build collaboration across industry and/or research institutions and/or disciplines.
- Research into Indigenous health and wellbeing a priority
### SBE & HCA Future Fellowship Applications (24% of all applications)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFCD</th>
<th>RFCD Description</th>
<th>Number projects</th>
<th>Proportion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>28</td>
<td>INFORMATION, COMPUTING AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCES</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>31</td>
<td>ARCHITECTURE, URBAN ENVIRONMENT AND BUILDING</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>5.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>ECONOMICS</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>8.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>COMMERCE, MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND SERVICES</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>9.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>POLICY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>STUDIES IN HUMAN SOCIETY</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>14.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>BEHAVIOURAL AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>11.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>39</td>
<td>LAW, JUSTICE AND LAW ENFORCEMENT</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40</td>
<td>JOURNALISM, LIBRARIANSHIP AND CURATORIAL STUDIES</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>41</td>
<td>THE ARTS</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>42</td>
<td>LANGUAGE AND CULTURE</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>43</td>
<td>HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGY</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>44</td>
<td>PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION</td>
<td>18</td>
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</tr>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>234</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0%</strong></td>
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**Australian Laureate Fellows**

- Allocate $239 million over 5 years
- Up to 15 to be awarded
- Each worth around $3 million
- Are the most prestigious fellowships (Professor + $100K) and the top of the career path
- National and international applicants
- Emphasis on research leadership & mentoring
  - Funds for 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to $300K). Will work with & mentor
- Success rate combining SBE and HCA has most often been about 20% in recent times.
Discovery Indigenous Researchers’ Development

• **Applicants**
  – Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
  – Need not have a PhD
  – Have not been a CI on an ARC grant or had an ARC fellowship

• **Success Rate**
  - 2006 62.5%, 2007 71.4%, 2008 39%, 2009 34.6%

• **Most applications are from SBE and HCA**

• **Salary support provided to Indigenous Australian researchers and postgraduate research students**
  – Postdoctoral Indigenous Researcher Fellowships

• **Changes in 2009 for 2010**
  – Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) can apply as an administering organisation
  – New Fellowship introduced:
    • *Australian Research Fellows – Indigenous:* for 2 or 3 years
    • More senior, Not developmental
ARC Centres of Excellence

- 2003 Cohort runs out in December 2010
- Review of ARC Centres of Excellence – 2005 cohort
  - Eleven Centres reviewed in 2008 and extended
- New Groundwater Centre in operation (May 2008)
- Centres consultation paper
  - Release delayed
- New ARC Centres of Excellence round for funding commencing July 2010
  - New round for funding commencing July 2010 for 7 years.
  - Applications expected to open 3rd quarter 2009.
  - Assessment and selection processes to take place into early 2010 – will be extra competitive.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFCD</th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2005</th>
<th>2006</th>
<th>2007</th>
<th>2008</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>33 Education</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>34 Economics</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>33%</td>
<td>34%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>35 Commerce, Mgt, Tourism &amp; Services</td>
<td>35%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36 Policy &amp; Political Science</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>21%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>37 Studies in Human Society</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>28%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38 Behavioural &amp; Cognitive Sciences</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>30%</td>
<td>26%</td>
<td>29%</td>
<td>29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>32 Medical and Health Sciences</td>
<td>43%</td>
<td>24%</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>38%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## All Currently Funded SBE Projects

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RFCD</th>
<th>RFCD Description</th>
<th>Number of projects</th>
<th>Prop.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>32</td>
<td>MEDICAL AND HEALTH SCIENCES</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td>EDUCATION</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>34</td>
<td>ECONOMICS</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>35</td>
<td>COMMERCE, MANAGEMENT, TOURISM AND SERVICES</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36</td>
<td>POLICY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE</td>
<td>69</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>37</td>
<td>STUDIES IN HUMAN SOCIETY</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>38</td>
<td>BEHAVIOURAL AND COGNITIVE SCIENCES</td>
<td>227</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
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<td>42</td>
<td>4%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>963</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Conclusion: Opportunities

- **Linkage Project** highest success rates
  - State & Local Governments, Australian and International Private companies

- Career opportunities for researchers:
  - *DP Fellows*: Postdoc ≤ 3 years; 3-8 years; *Professorial Fellow* > 8 years
  - *LP Fellows*
  - *Future Fellows* (5-15 years) - midcareer
  - *Australian Laureate Fellows*

- For top groups, new *Centres* round
- International collaboration – *DP & LP Projects, Future Fellows*
- Indigenous researchers and indigenous research
- Early career researchers – sole or with other CIs in *DP*