The Australian Research Council

Anthony Murfett
Director, Linkage and Infrastructure
ARC
The ARC

- Statutory Agency established 2001
- Fund direct costs to universities and partners
- Projects, fellows and infrastructure ($<5 M)
- All disciplines except clinical medicine & dentistry
Strategic objectives

• To support excellence in research
• To build Australia’s research capacity
• To provide informed high quality policy advice to government
• To enhance research outcomes through effective evaluation
• To raise the profile of Australia’s research effort and be an effective advocate for its benefits
National Competitive Grant Program (NCGP)

- Funding schemes under the NCGP aim to:
  - Maintain and build on existing research and training
  - Build the scale and focus of research and training
  - Encourage cross-disciplinary approaches
  - Facilitate collaboration
  - Support research and research training of national benefit, including under the National Research Priorities
NCGP overview

- Annual funding to the university sector ~ $577m (FY 08/09)
  - About 10% total Federal spending on R&D
  - Increase from ~$250m in FY02/03
  - Assess > 5,500 proposals a year
  - 35 Centres of Excellence, Special or Co-funded
New focus on internationalisation

• Strengthening internationalisation in all ARC schemes (rather than dedicated schemes)
• All fellowships will be open to international applicants to work in Australia
• Provisions for international collaboration within all our programs
Future Fellowships

• New $844 million *Future Fellowships* scheme
• Mid career (5-15 years PhD) researchers
• 200 X 4 year Fellowships over 5 years
• Salaries up to $140K (3 levels) + $50K pa support
• Aim to build capacity in universities and publicly-funded research institutions
• Encourage collaboration across industry, research institutions and between disciplines
• Run once a year, next round approx second half 2009
Australian Laureate Fellowships

- New scheme to allocate $239 million, over 5 years (replaces Federation Fellows)
- Most prestigious Fellowships (Professor + $100K)
- National and international applicants
- Emphasis on research leadership & mentoring
- Funds for 2 postdoctoral and 2 postgraduate researchers and project funding (up to $300K)
- Run once a year, next round approx second half of 2009
Discovery Projects

• Provides funding for research projects that can be undertaken by individual researchers or research teams
  • Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships
  • Australian Research Fellowships and Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships
  • Australian Professorial Fellowships
• Run once a year, next round open soon
Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development

- Provides salary support to Indigenous Australian researchers and postgraduate research students
- Researchers must be of Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent
- Research Cadetship - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders (RC-ATSI)
- Applications are restricted to Indigenous researchers
- Run once a year, next round approx March
Indigenous research

- On 23 July, the Minister announced his intention to introduce new public funding arrangements that will create additional opportunities for Indigenous Australians pursuing academic research careers.

- This included several new fellowships and the opening of ARC schemes to the Australian Institute for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS).
Linkage Projects

Primary aim

- Encourage cooperative approaches to research by strengthening links within Australia’s innovation system and within innovation systems internationally
- Two rounds per year, next round March/April.

Awards and Fellowships

- APAI (Australian Postgraduate Award, Industry)
- APDI (Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship, Industry)
- Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIF).

Partners

- Private sector (including international organisations); private non-profit organisation; a government organisation with funds not committed to internal research or any other purpose of research, evaluation and/or consultancy
- Partner Organisation must make significant contribution equal to, or greater than the ARC funding (cash and in-kind).
LIEF

Objective
• Encourage collaboration between institutions
• Support large-scale cooperative initiatives involving two or more institutions
• Run once a year, next round approx late March.

Funding for
• Infrastructure, equipment and facility purchases, as well as associated costs.

Funding Level
• Minimum $100,000 per annum
• One year funding, except for subscriptions or other payments to major international research facilities.
# Research partnerships

## Competitive schemes

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>CRC Programme</th>
<th>ARC Centres of Excellence</th>
<th>ARC LP Scheme</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Duration (years)</strong></td>
<td>Min: 7</td>
<td>Min: 5</td>
<td>Min: 1</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Max: 14 to ?</td>
<td>Max: 8-9</td>
<td>Max: 5</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C’wlth $/Centre</strong></td>
<td>$2m to $4m per year</td>
<td>Min: ~$1m/yr Max: ~$3m/yr</td>
<td>Min: $20k/yr</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Max: $2m/yr</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>No of industry</strong></td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Not Required</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>partners</td>
<td>Av: 7-9 per CRC</td>
<td>Av: 4-6 per CoE</td>
<td>Av: 2 per grant</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Focus</strong></td>
<td>programmatic, thematic</td>
<td>programmatic, thematic</td>
<td>project, thematic</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Call frequency</strong></td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>2-3 years</td>
<td>6 months</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Success rate</strong></td>
<td>10%-20%</td>
<td>&lt; 10%</td>
<td>40%-50%</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>C’wlth $/year</strong></td>
<td>~$200m</td>
<td>~$65m</td>
<td>~$120m</td>
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Common reasons for ineligibility

• Incomplete applications
  • pages/sections missing
  • signatures missing
  • letters missing
  • reports missing
  • current/past funding list inaccurate/incomplete.

• Centre overlap
  • letter not included or explanation not accepted

• NHMRC Overlap
• Eligibility criteria for particular investigator roles
• Limits on numbers of projects or applications
Contact

Anthony Murfett
anthony.murfett@arc.gov.au
(02) 6287 6747

Any Questions?