



The Australian Research Council

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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



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

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



	CRC Programme	ARC Centres of Excellence	ARC LP Scheme
Duration (years)	Min: 7 Max: 14 to ?	Min: 5 Max: 8-9	Min: 1 Max: 5
C'wlth \$/Centre	\$2m to \$4m per year	Min: ~\$1m/yr Max: ~\$3m/yr	Min: \$20k/yr Max: \$2m/yr
No of industry partners	Required Av: 7-9 per CRC	Not Required Av: 4-6 per CoE	Required Av: 2 per grant
Focus	programmatic, thematic	programmatic, thematic	project, thematic
Call frequency	2 years	2-3 years	6 months
Success rate	10%-20%	< 10%	40%-50%
C'wlth \$/year	~\$200m	~\$65m	~\$120m





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

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Any Questions?

