



**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**

# **Special Research Initiatives**

## **E-Research Support**

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**Selection Report**  
**Funding Commencing in 2005**

# Special Research Initiatives

## E-Research Support

The Australian Research Council's (ARC) Special Research Initiatives (SRI) scheme enables the ARC to support activities which:

- encourage greater collaboration among Australian researchers;
- encourage the development of international research linkages;
- encourage the cooperative development of high-quality research capacity in emerging areas; and
- enhance the scale and focus of research in priority areas.

E-Research Support is a pilot initiative under the SRI scheme. Its aim is to overcome initial barriers to the adoption of E-Research methods across all research disciplines by encouraging open exchange of information, sharing of resources and better use of existing ICT infrastructure.

Funding will be provided to support activities for a period of up to one year.

### Consultations

Consultations to determine the best way to support advances in E-Research in Australia occurred in June and July 2004 and included the following activities:

- a workshop organised by Macquarie University on behalf of the ARC on E-Research infrastructure issues – participants included representatives from the Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST), the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA), the Council of Australian University Directors of Information Technology (CAUDIT), the Australian Partnership on Advanced Computing (APAC), GrangeNet, the Australian Academic and Research Network (AARNET), the user community, the research community and the E-Learning community;
- a series of capital city workshops to consult with the higher education research community on incentives for E-Research support; and
- meetings with DCITA and DEST.

### Applications

Following those consultations, E-Research Support was developed as an initiative under the Special Research Initiatives scheme. Applications for funding opened on 7 January 2005. To encourage applications, an *Invitation for Funding Proposals* was distributed to Australian universities and publicly funded research agencies such as the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO), the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation (ANSTO), the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) and Geoscience Australia, as well as to museums and herbaria.

Because E-Research Support was designed to foster collaboration among researchers across different sectors in Australia, funding support was made open to a number of publicly funded research agencies that are not normally eligible for support under the ARC's National Competitive Grants Program.

Applications were processed through the ARC's online grant application management system (GAMS). Applications closed on 23 March 2005.

## **Selection Advisory Committee**

The Selection Advisory Committee comprised six members of the ARC College of Experts. It met on 19 and 20 May 2005 to assess applications and formulate funding recommendations. The Committee observed the ARC's procedures for managing conflict of interest.

## **Selection criteria**

The Selection Advisory Committee's assessment of applications was based on the SRI scheme's selection criteria:

- the likelihood that the activity will meet the scheme's objectives as indicated in Section 3 of the *Special Research Initiatives Funding Rules for Funding Commencing in 2005* and the specific initiatives as stated in Section 4.1 of the *Special Research Initiatives Funding Rules for Funding Commencing in 2005*;
- the quality of collaboration proposed;
- financial and in-kind contributions to be made by the participating organisations and, where appropriate, funding from other sources; and
- the expected results of the activity.

## **Summary of outcomes**

A total of 73 applications seeking \$7,705,969 in funding were considered by the Selection Advisory Committee.

A total of 37 applications (50.7%) are approved for funding. In total, these applications requested \$4,475,967 in funding support. Approved funding for these applications is \$3,620,526 in total.

A total of 36 applications (49.3%) were not recommended for funding.

## National Research Priorities

Of the 73 applications for funding received, 72 (98.6%) indicated that the proposed activity would address an area of national research priority. Of those 72 applications, 36 are approved for funding. This represents a success rate of 50.0% for applications nominating a priority area. Applications approved for funding that nominated a priority area represent 97.3% of all applications approved for funding and account for approved funding of \$3,525,272 of total approved funding of \$3,620,526.

**Table 1. Approved applications and funding, by area of national research priority**

<b>E-Research Support</b>				
<b>Priority</b>	<b>Applications received</b>	<b>Applications funded</b>	<b>Success rate (%)</b>	<b>Approved funding</b>
None	1	1	100	\$95,254
An Environmentally Sustainable Australia	8	4	50.0	\$448,986
Promoting and Maintaining Good Health	9	4	44.4	\$348,946
Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australian Industries	54	27	50.0	\$2,627,644
Safeguarding Australia	1	1	100	\$99,696
<b>Total priority applications</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>50.0</b>	<b>\$3,525,272</b>
<b>Total applications</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>50.7</b>	<b>\$3,620,526</b>
<b>Priority applications as a % of the total</b>	<b>98.6%</b>	<b>97.3%</b>		<b>97.4%</b>

## States

**Table 2. Approved applications and funding, by State**

<b>State</b>	<b>Applications received</b>	<b>Applications funded</b>	<b>Success rate (%)</b>	<b>Total approved funding</b>	<b>% of funded applications</b>	<b>% of total funding</b>
ACT	7	6	85.7%	\$598,157	16.2%	16.5%
NSW	15	5	33.3%	\$680,254	13.5%	18.8%
QLD	18	10	55.6%	\$834,649	27.0%	23.1%
SA	4	1	25.0%	\$109,564	2.7%	3.0%
TAS	2	2	100.0%	\$266,681	5.4%	7.4%
VIC	21	11	52.4%	\$981,221	29.7%	27.1%
WA	6	2	33.3%	\$150,000	5.4%	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>\$3,620,526</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Administering organisations

**Table 3. Applications received and approved, by administering organisation**

Organisation	Applications Received		Applications Funded		
	Number of applications	Requested funding	Number of applications	Requested funding	Approved funding
CSIRO - Mathematical & Information Sciences	1	\$221,375	1	\$221,375	\$100,000
CSIRO - Plant Industry	1	\$99,774	0	\$0	\$0
Curtin University of Technology	1	\$195,312	1	\$195,312	\$50,000
Edith Cowan University	1	\$63,800	0	\$0	\$0
Macquarie University	1	\$160,078	1	\$160,078	\$145,000
Monash University	6	\$466,142	3	\$289,876	\$222,933
Murdoch University	1	\$56,515	0	\$0	\$0
Queensland University of Technology	5	\$515,832	2	\$197,146	\$197,146
RMIT University	3	\$304,067	1	\$111,115	\$111,115
Swinburne University of Technology	2	\$240,053	0	\$0	\$0
The Australian National University	5	\$573,765	5	\$573,765	\$498,157
The University of Adelaide	4	\$397,398	1	\$109,564	\$109,564
The University of Melbourne	6	\$700,277	6	\$700,277	\$577,173
The University of New England	1	\$82,700	0	\$0	\$0
The University of New South Wales	4	\$299,307	0	\$0	\$0
The University of Newcastle	1	\$95,254	1	\$95,254	\$95,254
The University of Queensland	13	\$1,069,073	8	\$683,526	\$637,503
The University of Sydney	4	\$660,837	2	\$482,581	\$340,000
The University of Western Australia	3	\$393,034	1	\$130,205	\$100,000
University of Tasmania	2	\$266,681	2	\$266,681	\$266,681
University of Technology, Sydney	1	\$154,222	1	\$154,222	\$100,000
University of Wollongong	3	\$272,362	0	\$0	\$0
Victoria University of Technology	4	\$418,111	1	\$104,990	\$70,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>\$7,705,969</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>\$4,475,967</b>	<b>\$3,620,526</b>

## Discipline areas

**Table 4. Approved applications and funding, by discipline area**

Discipline	Number of applications	Number funded	Success rate	Amount requested	Amount Approved
BSB	3	2	66.7%	\$322,627	\$180,254
EE	1	0	0.0%	\$100,308	\$0
HCA	6	1	16.7%	\$565,718	\$100,000
MIC	49	26	53.1%	\$5,315,603	\$2,577,015
PCG	5	5	100.0%	\$535,432	\$535,432
SBE	9	3	33.3%	\$866,281	\$227,825
<b>Total</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>50.7%</b>	<b>\$7,705,969</b>	<b>\$3,620,526</b>

BSB = Biological Sciences and Biotechnology; EE = Engineering and Environmental Sciences; HCA = Humanities and Creative Arts; MIC = Mathematics and Information and Communication Sciences; PCG = Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience; SBE = Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

## Funding requested and approved

**Table 5. Funding requested and approved**

Number of applications	Total funding requested	Average funding requested	Number of funded applications	Total approved funding	Average funding
73	\$7,705,969	\$105,561	37	\$3,620,526	\$97,852

## Scheme Budget

The following funding is approved for 2005 new funding proposals.

2005	Total
\$3,620,526	\$3,620,526