

# NEW ARC RESEARCH PROJECTS 2006–2010: OVERVIEW

## *Backing Australia's Ability*

Additional funding under *Backing Australia's Ability* has been phased in over the past five years and the National Competitive Grants Program will be at peak funding levels from 2006. The result is that:

- total funding of new and ongoing research in 2005-06 is \$556.5 million.
- this figure is double that of the funding in 2000 before *Backing Australia's Ability* was introduced.

## Average funding

In comparison to last year:

- the average *Linkage Projects* grant rose 25 per cent to \$301,700.
- the average *Discovery Projects* grant increased 6 per cent to \$298,400.
- the average *Linkage Infrastructure Equipment and Facilities* grant rose 15 per cent to \$449,600.
- the average grant in the *Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development* scheme rose nearly 4 per cent to \$96,400.

## National Research Priorities

Eighty-five per cent or 1,028 of the 1,214 projects are indicated to fall in one or more of the four National Research Priority areas.

- Frontier Technologies for Building and Transforming Australia has 453 projects or 44 per cent of the projects in an area of National Research Priority
- Promoting and Maintaining Good Health has 238 projects or 23 per cent
- An Environmentally Sustainable Australia has 207 projects or 20 per cent
- Safeguarding Australia has 130 projects or 13 per cent

## The ARC's six research discipline groupings

- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences has 21 per cent of the funded projects
- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology has 18 per cent of funded projects

- Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience has 18 per cent of funded projects
- Humanities and Creative Arts has 16 per cent of funded projects
- Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences has 14 per cent of funded projects
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences has 14 per cent of funded projects

## Business investment

- A record 361 businesses, not-for-profit, government and community agencies will partner higher education organisations in the new projects under the *Linkage Projects* funding scheme.
- They have pledged a contribution of \$84.2 million or \$1.44 for every \$1 of Federal Government funding in this round of *Linkage Projects*. The Government's contribution is \$58.5 million.
- Private companies are the largest investors, contributing \$47.8 million to these projects.
- Australian companies are investing \$27.1 million.
- International companies are investing \$20.6 million.
- Many investors are among the world's biggest and most successful companies, such as BHP Billiton, Orica, Dupont-Pioneer, Santos, Alcoa, Fuji Xerox, Multiplex, Westpac, Lend Lease, Electrolux, McDonald's and Bluescope Steel.

## The Government's investment by industry sector—*Linkage Projects*

- Mining \$17 million
- Defence and Government Administration \$17 million
- Manufacturing \$11 million
- Health and Community Services \$10 million
- Property and Business Services \$6 million
- Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing \$5.6 million

## Not-for-profit, government and community agency partners

An impressive array of leading Australian and international not-for-profit, government and community agencies are partners in the successful *Linkage Projects* proposals, including:

- the Royal Flying Doctor Service
- the Australian Federal Police
- Volunteering Australia
- Museum Victoria
- the Murray-Darling Basin Commission
- the Royal Women's Hospital
- the National Library of Australia
- the RSL
- the High Court of Australia

## Regional Australia

- Twenty-seven per cent or 52 of the 194 *Linkage Projects* grants will benefit regional and rural areas
- Of the *Linkage Projects* \$58.5 million budget, some \$21.2 million or 36 per cent will go to projects benefiting regional and rural areas

## University comparison

(on the basis of the lead organisation)

- The university awarded the most new research funding across the five ARC funding schemes for which new funding was announced was The University of Sydney with \$51.4 million.
- The next four universities were The Australian National University with \$43.3 million; The University of Queensland with \$35.6 million; The University of New South Wales with \$35.5 million; and The University of Melbourne with \$31.8 million.
- The university awarded the most projects was The University of Sydney with 141 projects.
- The next four universities were The Australian National University with 134 projects; The University of New South Wales with 119 projects; The University of Melbourne with 116 projects; and The University of Queensland with 110 projects.