



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

**REVIEW OF THE
NATIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEM**

Submission details

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Declaration of interest: The Australian Research Council (ARC) is a statutory authority within the Australian Government's Innovation, Industry, Science and Research portfolio. It provides advice to the Government on research matters and manages the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) (see Introduction for further information).

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REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL INNOVATION SYSTEM AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL SUBMISSION

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INTRODUCTION

THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

1. The Australian Research Council (ARC) is a statutory authority within the Australian Government's Innovation, Industry, Science and Research portfolio. Its mission is to advance Australia's research excellence to be globally competitive and deliver benefits to the community.
2. The ARC provides advice to the Government on research matters and manages the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP), a significant component of Australia's investment in research and development. Funding provided through the NCGP is a key part of the competitive arm of the dual funding model for higher education research. Currently research conducted by higher education institutions accounts for more than one quarter of all national expenditure on research and development in Australia and the vast majority of basic research (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006).
3. Through the NCGP, the ARC supports the highest quality fundamental and applied research and research training across all disciplines with the exception of clinical medicine and dentistry. Its aim is to support research that is broadly distributed, well connected, internationally regarded, motivated by discovery, fuelled by the prospect of final application, accessible to users and of impeccably high quality. NCGP funding is allocated on the basis of a competitive peer review process using national and international research experts.
4. On 26 February 2008, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research announced that a new *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) initiative would be developed by the ARC in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR). ERA will assess research excellence within Australia's higher education institutions using a combination of metrics and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.
5. Further information about the ARC is provided in the appendices to this submission.

THIS SUBMISSION

6. In this submission, the ARC focuses on ten specific areas to which it believes consideration should be given if the important contribution of research to Australia's innovation system is to be further enhanced.
7. In recent years, innovation performance has been the subject of many reviews both in Australia and elsewhere. For this reason, we have not attempted on this occasion any detailed analysis of Australia's performance, accepting that in broad terms Australia's record with regard to innovation is 'can do better'. We have also not attempted to re-state the benefits of innovation, with the following being taken as 'givens':
 - innovation is one of the keys to a nation's competitiveness;

- innovation is a global activity;
 - a level of public support for innovation is necessary; and
 - key inputs to innovation include research, research training and strong links across the different components of the national and international innovation system.
8. In March 2007, the Productivity Commission published the final report of its review of public support for science and innovation. The ARC's submission to the Productivity Commission (August 2006) provided a detailed picture of the role of the ARC within the national innovation system, the outcomes and impact of ARC-funded research as well as suggestions regarding the emerging research environment and increasing the returns to research. It is a useful companion document to this submission (see www.arc.gov.au). The ARC response to the Productivity Commission's Draft Research Report (December 2006) also provided comments on a number of the Commission's draft findings ahead of the release of the final report.
9. This submission does not provide commentary on the challenges currently confronting Australia or the goals to which priority should attach. Rather, it begins from the premise that research and research capability relevant to Australian priorities, reflecting Australian strengths and needs and Australia's capacity to contribute regionally and globally is an essential component of a creative, innovative society and global competitiveness.

TEN WAYS TO IMPROVE THE CONTRIBUTION OF RESEARCH TO AUSTRALIA'S INNOVATION SYSTEM

ONE: CONTINUE TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A STRONG CAPABILITY IN BASIC RESEARCH

10. Major innovation shifts are crucially dependent on the existence of a substantial base of basic research. Pure basic research is defined by the ABS as experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge.
11. In Australia, basic research is undertaken primarily by the universities and a number of publicly funded research agencies. Retention and expansion of basic research capability in these institutions are critical ingredients in strengthening the national innovation system and ensuring Australia's continuing competitiveness in the evolving global economy.
12. The NCGP, and particularly the *Discovery Projects* scheme, is among the few sources of competitive research funds in Australia supporting the development of new knowledge. As demand has grown, success rates in the scheme have fallen (Table 1). The ARC believes that continuing commitment to basic research through competitive grant funding is necessary and warranted.

Table 1: ARC *Discovery Projects* scheme success rates 2002–08

Year of initial funding	Success rate	Average grant size	Number of applications
2002	25.5%	\$247,013	3078
2003	26.3%	\$249,240	3574
2004	27.0%	\$271,939	3240
2005	30.9%	\$282,030	3414
2006	24.5%	\$298,350	3742
2007	20.4%	\$334,267	4033
2008	21.4%	\$342,593	4121

13. Continued commitment to basic research is consistent with activities in other countries, including the United States (US) and United Kingdom. A recent report prepared by the National Academies Committee in the US (Augustine, 2007) highlighted insufficient funding of basic research by the US federal government as a critical issue which must be corrected.
14. An earlier report prepared by the US National Academies (2007) identified an important subset of basic research as high-risk or transformative research that ‘involves new theories, methods, or tools that are often developed by new investigators’. The ARC is looking at ways within its funding schemes to better identify innovative proposals.
15. Most forms of research in Australia, but particularly basic research, have been strengthened by the investment in research concentration and research networks over the last decade. The ARC Centres of Excellence have international visibility and standing and are able to attract and retain researchers of the highest calibre as they permit both depth and breadth of research activity and continuity of funding for up to five years (or longer subject to performance reviews and budget). All have developed strong collaborations with university and other partners, and most achieve considerable funding leverage.
16. The Centres of Excellence play a crucial and growing role in the national innovation system and the ARC believes that consideration should be given to expanding the support available for the scheme. There is considerable on-going support within the sector for maintaining a strong *ARC Centres of Excellence* scheme.
17. The ARC is a partner in three on-going Centres of Excellence co-funded with other government bodies (i.e. National ICT Australia (NICTA) and the Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFG)). Plans for a further such Centre in Groundwater Research and Training (co-funded with the National Water Commission) are in progress. These Centres provide an excellent model on which to build additional research areas of national significance as and when they are identified in whole-of-government processes and/or by the relevant government agencies.
18. Preliminary findings from a review currently being undertaken by the ARC of *ARC Research Networks* indicate that this initiative to facilitate the development of collaborative links among researchers has been an effective complement to the direct funding of research and research facilities. The current scheme has a flexible architecture which is highly productive in bridging both physical distance

and disciplinary contradictions between researchers to produce new collaborative work. Networks complement Centres by connecting people who cannot be in the same place at the same time, and incubate prospective Centres, by mapping and sustaining emerging areas of research.

TWO: IDENTIFY AREAS OF EXCELLENCE AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT WITHIN AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

19. The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative is under development by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in conjunction with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR).
20. The proposed framework aims to: (i) identify excellence across the full spectrum of research activity; (ii) compare Australia's research effort against international benchmarks; (iii) create incentives to improve the quality of research outputs; and (iv) identify emerging research areas and opportunities for further development.
21. ERA should command the confidence of the research community and provide an objective assessment of current research strengths and emerging research areas in Australian universities.
22. In the longer term, ERA will provide a framework that gives government, business and the wider community, assurance of the quality of research in Australia's higher education institutions and guide future investment in that research effort.

THREE: PROVIDE GREATER INFRASTRUCTURE SUPPORT FOR UNIVERSITY-BASED, GRANT-FUNDED RESEARCH

23. The ARC supports the dual funding system for university research comprising block funding and competitive funding. This model provides incentives for encouraging excellence in higher education research through competition as well as scope for higher education institutions to develop particular research strengths and specialisations.
24. Australia's research activity and capability surged in both quality and quantity following the expansion of funding – primarily through competitive processes – in the years since 2001. The ARC is aware through its involvement with research in the higher education sector of the pressure on university block funding created by the expansion in competitive funding. To maximise the outcomes of research funded by that (and any future) expansion it is important that there are corresponding increases in the size of the block grant supporting that activity in higher education institutions.
25. The ARC itself lacks the capacity to fund institutional overheads and infrastructure costs from within its current budget given the current success rate of applications, which in some schemes is now at or close to historically low levels (21.4% in the most recent round of *Discovery Projects*).

26. As part of a study aimed at analysing the full economic cost of peer review processes, Research Councils UK considered the range of acceptable success rates and concluded that ‘a success rate above 20% and below 50% represents an acceptable balance between the benefits of competition and the cost/effort to support the system’ (Research Councils UK, October 2006, page 4).
27. Support for research infrastructure at all levels is necessary to underpin the capacity for universities to continue to play a strong role within the national innovation system. The ARC *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities* (LIEF) scheme provides funding for collaborative infrastructure purchases associated with a research program. A minimum of \$100 000 and a maximum of 75 per cent of the value of the infrastructure acquisition is funded by the ARC.
28. The funding levels of the LIEF scheme place it at the lower end of the continuum of research infrastructure funding in the Australian higher education sector. The ability to have applications reviewed by experts and approved within six months of submission makes the scheme a flexible and responsive resource for researchers. Demand for funding under the scheme continues to be high.

FOUR: MAKE RESEARCH CAREERS COMPETITIVE WITH OTHER PROFESSIONAL CAREER CHOICES

29. While academic research salaries have increased over the last decade, academic researchers in general, and early-career researchers in particular, face more limited financial and career development prospects than other professions.
30. The ARC has observed the challenges confronted by many grant recipients in attracting postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to their teams as qualified staff take up higher-paying, non-research positions in business or government. Researchers lost to the profession early in their careers are less likely to return to it and the trend, if continued, will inevitably accentuate the already apparent ageing of the academic workforce in Australia. Resultant gaps in the academic workforce could become a major constraint on the retention and enhancement of Australia’s research capability into the future.
31. The ARC believes that a high priority issue for the system is the issue of the support level for postgraduate awards. Improved salaries and greater continuity in career paths for academic researchers would also increase Australia’s attractiveness as a destination for highly qualified, overseas-trained researchers, who are easier to attract and retain in the earlier rather than later stages of their careers.
32. The ARC supports fellowships at various levels through to Federation Fellowships. The salaries and stipends paid in respect of ARC-funded awards and fellowships were increased substantially in 2002 and the ARC also introduced a number of measures in 2002 and in subsequent years to increase the number, level, duration and/or flexibility of fellowships and other awards it administers.
33. The ARC welcomes the opportunities that will become available under the *Future Fellowships* scheme including the provision for a period of the fellowship to be spent in a high quality research environment overseas.

FIVE: ENCOURAGE RESEARCHER MOBILITY AS A MEANS OF DEVELOPING RESEARCH CAREERS AND CONNECTEDNESS

34. In the past, the NCGP funding arrangements have imposed limitations and barriers to the international mobility of researchers. More recently, reductions in the availability of sabbatical leave for university staff and changes in the taxation treatment of staff working overseas have also made it harder for Australian-based researchers to work and travel overseas.
35. It is now well accepted that mobility enhances skills development and the building of cooperative links and networks. This is apparent in the number of government programs that now exist to encourage Australian researchers overseas to return to Australia and to attract foreign researchers of international standing to come to Australia. It also underlies the Australian Government's recent announcement that competition for Future Fellowships and Australian Postgraduate Awards (Industry) will be opened up to non-Australian citizens, and the foreshadowing of the same for other types of fellowships administered by the ARC.
36. The ARC believes that continuation of such efforts is critical to healthy 'brain circulation'¹ in Australia. Also desirable is a visa system that, while ensuring that entry requirements are met (for example, with regard to security, health, etc), makes it easier for higher education institutions to welcome into this country staff and students from overseas.

SIX: OFFER THE OPPORTUNITY FOR RESEARCHERS TO ESTABLISH MORE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS WITH END-USERS

37. Close relationships between end-user groups and academic researchers can increase the effectiveness with which research projects are planned and delivered.
38. The ARC's Linkage suite of schemes is a well-regarded means of allowing end-user participation (including financial participation) in research projects and programs of varying size and limited duration. It is complementary to other Government schemes in operation including Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) and ARC Centres of Excellence particularly in the scope of the support provided (that is, for projects rather than programs of research).
39. The ARC believes that it is now time to consider the further expansion of *Linkage Projects* in ways that would enable more strategic partnerships to be developed with end-users, and consistent with the Productivity Commission's finding on the subject:

'A complement to the CRC program with broader collaboration goals should be introduced that supports smaller, shorter and more flexible arrangements between groups of firms either independently or in conjunction with universities and public sector research agencies. As a pilot for further evaluation, this should

¹ This term is used by ARC Federation Fellow, Professor Graham Hugo (among others,) who has gained international recognition for his work on researcher mobility. Professor Hugo's findings suggest that, while Australia is currently a net importer of research talent, our advantage in this area is declining, with some disciplines showing net losses. 'Brain circulation' refers to the movement of researchers across international boundaries.

be achieved through an enhancement of the ARC Linkage program' (Finding 10.15, Public Support for Science and Innovation).

40. The ARC will be undertaking a review of the *Linkage Projects* scheme during 2008–09 to gauge its success and options for the future including the possibility *Large Linkage Projects* scheme to meet growing demand. Any changes proposed would need to be balanced against other demands on the scheme.
41. Similarly, and as noted above, the ARC supports the creation of co-funded Centres of Excellence focussed on research areas identified in whole-of-government processes as of national significance. Such centres, operated jointly by the ARC and the relevant government agency or agencies, could benefit from the ARC's well-regarded competitive peer review processes and established management protocols.

SEVEN: PROVIDE STRUCTURED AND STRATEGIC WAYS FOR AUSTRALIA TO ENGAGE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH COMMUNITY IN JOINT OR COMPLEMENTARY RESEARCH PROGRAMS

42. As a country with a relatively small but well-connected research capability, Australia stands to gain significantly from the development of more structured and strategic links with the global research community. The ARC believes that participation in schemes to fund international collaboration, for example, International Centres of Excellence or international exchange programs is critical to enhancing Australia's ability to reap the benefits of improved access to new ideas and to high quality research environments and facilities outside Australia.

EIGHT: ENSURE WIDE ACCESSIBILITY TO THE OUTPUTS OF PUBLICLY FUNDED RESEARCH

43. The ARC supports further consideration of mechanisms to improve the availability of publicly-funded research to those it could benefit. Better access to research findings should improve the efficiency of research and the extent and speed of knowledge transfer, and so improve the efficiency of the national innovation system itself.
44. The ARC has adopted a policy of encouraging ARC-funded researchers to disseminate their findings as broadly as possible to improve access to their findings by other researchers and the wider community. The funding rules for all its schemes now actively promote the dissemination of research outputs.

NINE: UNDERSTAND THE COST OF AND SOURCES OF FUNDING FOR RESEARCH IN AUSTRALIAN HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

45. In order to make better informed decisions about research funding, the ARC and other funding bodies need a clear understanding of the true cost of undertaking research in Australian higher education institutions.

46. There is also need to identify cross-subsidies of the research effort in universities and any behaviours resulting from that. It has been argued that current block funding formulae can encourage low-cost research areas at the expense of more expensive research priorities where there may be greater national need. Some evidence to support this is provided by the increase in Discovery application numbers from the Social, Economic and Behavioural Sciences and Humanities and Creative Arts areas (up by 30% and 27% respectively in 2008 compared to 2005) compared to Engineering and Environmental Sciences (only a 1% increase over the same period).
47. The ARC does not have the capacity to address these cross-subsidies within its current funding envelope without having a major impact on success rates. Currently, project budget information provided by applicants indicates that funding sought from the ARC represents approximately 60 per cent of the direct costs of the research the ARC sponsors through the *Discovery Projects* scheme with the remainder supported by universities or other organisations². Preliminary ARC modelling suggests that the success rate of proposals submitted under *Discovery Projects* could fall by as much as 14 percentage points (from the actual rate of 21.4% achieved in the most recent round to 7.4%) if the full amount of estimated direct costs were funded under the scheme. At such a low level, the willingness of both applicants and assessors to invest in the submission and assessment of proposals would be greatly reduced, potentially compromising the quality and credibility of the NCGP.
48. The ARC would support the conduct of an early and formal review of research costs and cross-subsidies. Such a review would complement the ERA initiative which will map areas of excellence, by increasing understanding of the costs of undertaking or expanding research activity in different fields across the higher education research sector. The ARC would be able to contribute to such a review a substantial amount of data from the research sector that could form the basis of the analysis.

TEN: ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUND EVIDENCE BASE FOR DECISION-MAKING BY PROMOTING THE USE OF COMMON INDICATORS ACROSS THE RESEARCH SECTOR, MEASURED AT INTERVALS THAT REFLECT THE TYPICALLY LONG INNOVATION TIME-FRAMES

49. Decisions concerning the optimal level and mix of research funding and other inputs into the national innovation system are invariably made more difficult by the lack of recognised, common indicators and reporting frameworks. The evidence base available to decision-makers is complex, fragmented and inconsistent and is not conducive to the incremental understanding of what works and why and how it works in achieving particular objectives. Reporting and analysis is made more complex by the long timeframes within which research impacts become apparent and the transient nature or short duration of some programs.

² The ARC may recommend a level of funding for a project which differs from that requested in a proposal. In the most recent *Discovery Projects* funding round, the average funding per approved project was 65.4% of the average amount requested.

50. The ARC favours the development, as far as possible, of common reporting and evaluation frameworks that enable consistent measures to be developed for different types of research and research programs. The measures should enable all programs, institutions and disciplines to be internationally and nationally benchmarked. They should extend well beyond the completion date of the research itself in order to encompass longer term outputs and outcomes.
51. The ARC's development of the ERA framework will be a significant mechanism driving the application in the higher education sector of a comprehensive and well-considered evidence base for research assessment and policy. There may be benefit in applying elements of the framework (such as the collection and publication of a standard set of metrics) across the broader research community.

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THE AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL – ROLE AND GOVERNANCE

BACKGROUND

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is established as a statutory agency under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (the ARC Act). It consists of a Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appointed by the Minister under the Act, designated committees appointed by the Minister to assist the CEO, and staff engaged under the *Public Service Act 1999*. The ARC is a prescribed agency under the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. It is part of the Innovation, Industry, Science and Research portfolio.

ROLE

Under the ARC Act, the functions of the ARC are:

- to make recommendations to the Minister in relation to approval of proposals from organisations for funding of research programs;
- to administer financial assistance approved by the Minister for research programs; and
- to provide advice to the Minister on matters related to research.

Key elements of these functions include: (i) the ARC's administration of the funding schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) (see [Appendix B](#)); and (ii) the provision of advice to the Minister on the development and implementation of the *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) initiative.

Together with the National Health and Medical Research Council, the ARC occupies a unique place in the Australian innovation system. Together the two agencies constitute the greater part of the competitive funding arm of the dual funding model for higher education research. The ARC is the only Australian Government agency which has a role in supporting research and research training across the broad spectrum of research – from the sciences and engineering through to the social sciences and humanities.

GOVERNANCE

On 1 July 2006, amendments to the ARC Act were made following the Government's endorsement of the recommendations of the *Review of Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders* (the Uhrig Report). The principal change was the retirement of the ARC Board, with the CEO now reporting directly to the Minister. An ARC Advisory Council has been established to provide advice to the CEO on the broad strategic direction of the ARC.

The ARC Act requires the CEO to prepare a strategic plan at least once a year, with the plan to cover at least 3 years. Requirements of the plan include exposition of the goals, priorities, policies and strategies to be adopted in performing the CEO's functions, and performance indicators for assessment of the CEO's performance of those functions. The plan must be approved by the Minister and tabled in Parliament.

Funding caps for the ARC for the years 2001 to 2010–11 are specified in the ARC Act. The cap for 2007–08 is \$571 800 000. Before the start of each year, the Minister must determine the proportion of total funding to be allocated under the Discovery and Linkage elements of the NCGP for that year.

The ARC Act stipulates that the CEO must prepare, for the Minister's approval, funding rules for each year's funding proposals. The rules cover matters such as eligibility criteria, method of application for funds, assessment processes, variation of funding approvals and accountability requirements.

The ARC Act requires the CEO to make recommendations to the Minister in relation to research proposals that should be approved (and not approved) and the amounts of expenditure. Decisions by the CEO to make recommendations to the Minister are reviewable under the *Administrative Decisions (Judicial Review) Act 1977*. The Minister must table in Parliament a copy of the determination approving proposals.

THE NATIONAL COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM – FACTS AND FIGURES

OVERVIEW

Budget

In 2006–07 the ARC administered a budget of approximately \$570 million for the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) – accounting for 9.0 per cent of total Australian Government financial assistance for science and innovation.

Objectives

By the operation of a range of funding schemes under the NCGP, the ARC aims to:

- maintain and build on existing research and research training;
- build the scale and focus of research and research training;
- encourage cross-disciplinary approaches to research and research training;
- facilitate collaborative approaches to research and research training;
- support research and research training of national benefit, including in the National Research Priorities.

Schemes

The NCGP supports two main streams of research funding – the Discovery element, under which funding is made available for investigator-initiated research and research fellowships, and the Linkage element, under which research projects, infrastructure, fellowships, centres and networks are funded jointly with partner organisations in the private sector, government or the community. An overview of the research schemes comprising the NCGP and the priority areas of research that are supported under those schemes is provided in Tables B1 and B2 respectively.

Policy

The operation of the NCGP is underpinned by a number of policy tenets including the following:

- the vast majority of proposals under the NCGP are investigator-initiated;
- funding under the NCGP is allocated on basis of the excellence of the proposal;
- the excellence of proposals is assessed through a competitive peer review process involving both Australian and international experts; and
- funding provided through the ARC's schemes must not duplicate any funding provided under other Australian Government mechanisms.

Sector

Most of the ARC's funding through the NCGP is directed to the higher education sector although there are a number of exceptions where funding is provided to organisations outside this sector. Under the *Discovery Projects* scheme, for example, both Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships and Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships are tenable at organisations outside the higher education sector including the CSIRO. The same exceptions apply under the *Federation Fellowships* scheme and are proposed for the *Future Fellowships* scheme.

Fields of research

The ARC provides funding in all areas except clinical medicine and dentistry. In non-clinical areas of medical research, support is provided by both the ARC and NHMRC. A formal coordination mechanism is in place to ensure there are no overlaps.

STATISTICS

Statistics relating to the Australian Government's investment in research and research training through the NCGP are provided in this appendix.

Explanatory notes

Project data

Data on ARC-funded projects in this appendix are of two main types which generally differ in number and in value:

- data on project proposals submitted and/or approved for funding in a particular year ('new' grants); and
- data on projects receiving funding in a particular year ('new and ongoing' grants).

In any year, the number of proposals approved for funding ('new' grants) across all ARC schemes is smaller than the number of proposals receiving funding in that year. This is because, in most ARC schemes, grants are awarded for more than one year.

On the other hand, the value of the funding approved for proposals submitted and successful ('new grants') in a particular year represents a forward commitment, and generally exceeds the value of the funding allocated for 'live' grants ('new and ongoing') in that year. The difference between these amounts may be substantial in schemes which have intermittent rounds (such as *Centres of Excellence*), but less in schemes with smaller annual fluctuations in the number and value of projects approved (such as *Discovery Projects*).

For this reason, the value of new funding commitments to projects submitted in a particular year (generally for funding commencing the following year) does not necessarily match the ARC's administered (Program) budget. The difference arises because the forward commitment applies for the duration of the funded projects, which is generally longer than one year, while the administered budget covers outlays for new and ongoing projects in a single financial year.

Year data

The tables generally show project numbers and funding by calendar year. Three types of year descriptors are used:

- “Year submitted” – the year in which a project proposal was submitted to the ARC, generally for funding commencing the following year. Proposals have been submitted to the ARC under NCGP schemes each year from 2001 to 2007;
- “Funding year” – a year in which an approved project was expected to receive a funding allocation. Projects have been funded under the NCGP each year from 2002 to 2008;
- “Year of first funding” – the year in which an approved project was expected to receive its first allocation.

Currency of data

Unless otherwise indicated, the data included in these tables are drawn from the documents approved by the Minister at the time the awards were made and exclude any post-award variations that may subsequently have been approved. For example:

- the funding may not have been taken up by the investigator(s) after the project was approved;
- investigators may have been added to, or removed from, the project; and/or
- the project may have ceased prematurely.

Actual amounts paid to the recipient organisations (Administering Organisations) against approved research projects will vary from the original approvals due to indexation of payments and other post-award funding variations.

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Research priorities	
B26	National Research Priorities in new projects approved for funding commencing in 2007, selected schemes

Table B1: NCGP, purpose and features of schemes

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development (DIRD)	
Frequency	One selection round per year
Purpose	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ develop the research expertise of Indigenous researchers who have not participated as a Chief Investigator on a project funded under any of the ARC's other funding schemes or previously been awarded an ARC Fellowship ■ support fundamental research and research training by Indigenous Australian individuals and teams ■ provide Indigenous Australian researchers with experience in the preparation of research funding proposals ■ expand Australia's knowledge base and research capability.
Components	DIRD supports research projects and fellowships. Fellowships are awarded in one category – Indigenous Researcher Fellowships (at postdoctoral level).
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Duration: Grants may be awarded for one to three years and the fellowship is for one or two years' full-time employment on an approved project. ■ Size of grant: Minimum – \$10 000 per calendar year; Maximum – \$200 000 over the life of the project.
Eligibility	Eligible higher education institutions; museums and herbaria
Roles	Chief Investigator; Indigenous Researcher Fellow; Mentor; Supervisor
Selection criteria	Investigator (40%); proposed project content (40%); and quality of research environment and/or mentor and/or supervisor (20%)
Discovery Projects	
Frequency	One selection round per year
Purpose	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ support excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams ■ enhance the scale and focus of research in the national research priorities ■ assist researchers to undertake their research in conditions most conducive to achieving best results ■ expand Australia's knowledge base and research capability ■ encourage research training in high-quality research environments.
Components	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ <i>Discovery Projects</i> supports research projects and fellowships. ■ Fellowships are awarded in four categories: Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (APDs), Australian Research Fellowships (ARFs), Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships (QEII) and Australian Professorial Fellowships (APFs).
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Research grants may be awarded for one to five years with grant sizes from \$20 000 to \$500 000 per annum ■ APDs may be awarded funding for three to four years; ARFs, QEII and APFs may be awarded funding for five years. ARC Fellowships are funded at levels outlined in the Funding Rules.
Eligibility	Eligible higher education institutions; museums and herbaria. Some fellowships may also be held at research organisations funded by state and territory governments and other Australian government sources.
Roles	Chief Investigator; Partner Investigator; APD; ARF; QEII; and APF
Selection criteria	Investigator (40%); and proposed project content (60%)
Strategic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National research priorities ■ Early-career researchers
Federation Fellowships	
Frequency	One selection round per year

Purpose	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ attract and retain outstanding researchers of international renown ■ build and strengthen world-class research capability in Australia ■ expand Australia's knowledge base by supporting groundbreaking, internationally competitive research ■ forge strong links among researchers, industry and the international research community ■ support research that will result in economic, environmental, social or cultural benefits for Australia.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Up to 25 fellowships with a standard tenure of five years are awarded each year. ■ Each fellowship is worth approximately \$261 173 per annum (2007 dollars) plus 28 per cent on-costs. Administering organisations are required to match at least the financial contribution of the Australian Government over the life of the fellowships (including cash and in-kind support). ■ The scheme is open to proposals from researchers of outstanding international renown currently working in Australia or overseas. Up to five fellowships may be awarded to researchers who are not Australian.
Eligibility	Eligible higher education institutions; museums and herbaria; research organisations funded by state and territory governments and other Australian government sources
Roles	Federation Fellow
Selection criteria	Investigator (50%); and project/program of research activity (50%)
Strategic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National research priorities
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	
Frequency	One selection round per year
Purpose	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ encourage eligible organisations to develop collaborative arrangements in the higher education sector and with other organisations outside the sector in order to develop research infrastructure ■ support large-scale cooperative initiatives thereby allowing expensive infrastructure, equipment and facilities to be shared ■ enhance support for areas of research strength ■ ensure that researchers in fields of recognised research potential have access to the support necessary to carry out high-quality research.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The minimum grant is \$100 000. ■ Funding is normally for one year only. However, up to five years of funding can be approved for subscriptions or other payments relating to major international research facilities.
Eligibility	Eligible higher education institutions; peak bodies for subscriptions and other payments in respect of international research facilities
Roles	Chief Investigator; Partner Investigator
Selection criteria	Investigator(s) (20%); significance of research to be supported with the proposed infrastructure, equipment and facilities (20%); need for excellent Australian researchers to access the proposed infrastructure, equipment and facility (30%); and strength and benefits of collaboration between researchers and/or across Eligible Organisations and/or other eligible organisations (30%)
Strategic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National research priorities
Linkage International	
Frequency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Fellowships: one selection round per year ■ Internationally Coordinated Initiatives (ICIs): as required

Purpose	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ build strong ongoing collaborations between researchers, research teams or centres of excellence in Australia and any other country ■ strengthen international research experience for early-career researchers and generate opportunities for postgraduate and postdoctoral researchers to link into leading-edge international research networks ■ build Australian research capability by enhancing existing, and developing new, collaborations among experienced and senior researchers ■ develop innovative modes of international collaboration and links into global innovation networks.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ARC International Fellowships (ARCIFs) fund overseas researchers from any country to work in Australia, and Australian researchers to work in institutions in any country. ■ ICIs are used to support proposals funded under collaborative initiatives with overseas agencies. In 2006 and 2008 the ARC called for cooperative activities in the social sciences between Australian researchers and their counterparts in the United Kingdom.
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ARCIFS: Eligible higher education institutions ■ ICIs: as specified in Funding Rules
Roles	Chief Investigator; Overseas Investigator; Partner Investigator; ARCIF
Selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ ARCIFS: ARCIF candidate (30%); significance, innovation and approach (30%); collaboration strengths and benefits (30%); and national benefit (10%) ■ ICIs: nature and merit of proposal in relation to objectives
Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects (LASP)	
Frequency	One selection round per year
Purpose	To support projects undertaken by the learned academies which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ capitalise on their unique capabilities and assist programs of research undertaken by institutions ■ may be expected to have results of broad benefit for research and scholarship in the natural and applied sciences, technological development and applied technology, the social sciences and the humanities.
Features	Grants have a maximum duration of three years for any one project
Eligibility	Learned Academies
Roles	LASP Chief Investigator; Partner Investigator
Selection criteria	As specified in section 11.1.1 of Funding Rules
Linkage Projects	
Frequency	Two selection rounds per year
Purpose	To: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ encourage and develop long-term strategic research alliances between higher education organisations and other organisations, including within industry ■ support collaborative research on issues of benefit to regional and rural communities ■ enhance the scale and focus of research in national research priorities ■ foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with organisations outside the higher education sector ■ provide outcome-oriented research training to prepare high-calibre postgraduate research students ■ produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of the broader Australian innovation system.

Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Applicants can seek funding for project costs and the salary of an Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship Industry (APDI) and/or stipend for an Australian Postgraduate Award Industry (APAI). ■ Proposals must contain a partner contribution, in cash and/or in-kind, which at least matches the amount sought from the Australian Government. ■ Typically, grants are awarded for one to five years and are for amounts between \$20 000 and \$500 000 per annum. Larger grants may be awarded in special circumstances. ■ Linkage Industry Fellowships (LIFs) provide support for the costs involved in a temporary transfer of a researcher from a higher education institution to a partner organisation or vice versa for a period of between three and 12 months.
Eligibility	Eligible higher education institutions
Roles	Chief Investigator; Partner Investigator; APDI; LIF
Selection criteria	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Linkage Projects: Investigator (20%); proposed project content (55%); and nature of alliance, commitment from partner organisation and budget (25%). ■ APDI: excellence of track record relative to opportunities as well as excellence of proposed project.
Strategic priorities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ National research priorities ■ Research in rural and regional issues ■ Research training in ICT
Research Centres: ARC Centres of Excellence	
Frequency	Competitive application process conducted periodically
Purpose	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ undertake highly innovative research at the forefront of developments within areas of national importance, with a scale and a focus leading to outstanding international and national recognition ■ enhance the scale and focus of research in designated national research priorities ■ promote research that will enhance Australia's future economic, social and cultural wellbeing ■ link existing Australian research strengths and build new capacity for interdisciplinary, collaborative approaches to address the most challenging and significant research problems ■ build Australia's human capacity in a range of research areas by attracting, from within Australia and abroad, researchers of high international standing as well as the most promising research students ■ provide high-quality postgraduate and postdoctoral training environments for the next generation of researchers in innovative and internationally competitive research ■ offer Australian researchers access to world-class infrastructure and equipment, and to key research technologies ■ develop relationships and build new networks with major international centres and research programs that help achieve global competitiveness and recognition for Australian research ■ establish centres of such high repute in the wider community that they will serve as points of interaction among higher education institutions, governments, industry and the private sector generally.
Features	Funding of between \$1 and 5 million per year over five years (2005 selection round) is awarded.
Research Centres: Co-Funded Centres of Excellence	
Frequency	Special selection rounds conducted
Purpose	To ensure Australia participates in key emerging technologies

Features	<p>In 2007–08 the ARC continued to support three co-funded Centres of Excellence as outlined below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics (ACPFPG) is co-funded by the ARC and the Grains Research and Development Corporation. Payments commenced in 2002. Initial ARC funding of \$10 million for the ACPFG ended in December 2006. Additional ARC funding of \$11 million over five years commenced in 2008 (subject to satisfactory performance reviews). The ACPFG's central node is located at The University of Adelaide. ■ The Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC) is co-funded by the ARC and the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. Payments commenced in 2003 and are scheduled to continue until 2010–11 (subject to satisfactory performance reviews). The ASCC's central node is located at Monash University in Melbourne. ■ National ICT Australia (NICTA) is co-funded by the ARC and the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts. Payments commenced in 2003 and are scheduled to be completed in 2010–11 (subject to satisfactory performance reviews). NICTA's central node is located at the Australian Technology Park in Sydney.
Research Centres: Special Research Centres	
Frequency	The last selection round for Special Research Centres (SRCs) was conducted in 1999 (for funding commencing in 2000). No new selection rounds will be conducted.
Purpose	<p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ establish special units of concentration of research workers and resources in Australian higher education institutions ■ encourage the pursuit of excellence in research, as measured at both national and international levels ■ establish Centres that will act as a major linkage to international centres and programs ■ provide high-quality research environments for postgraduate research education and postdoctoral training ■ promote research in areas of national importance that will enhance Australia's future economic, social and cultural wellbeing ■ serve as points of interaction between higher education institutions, government, industry, and the private sector.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Funded for a maximum of nine years each. ■ Funding in the range of \$600 000 to \$1 million annually.
ARC Research Networks	
Frequency	Selection round conducted in 2003 (for funding commencing in 2004). Currently no new application rounds are scheduled for ARC Research Networks.
Purpose	<p>To build on investments in excellent research undertaken by individual investigators and small teams to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ enhance the scale and focus of their research ■ encourage more cross-disciplinary approaches to research ■ facilitate collaborative and innovative approaches to planning and undertaking research.
Features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Support of up to \$500 000 per annum is provided for up to five years. ■ Costs eligible for support include personnel salaries and on-costs, activities bringing people together and development or purchase of shared research resources that would not be eligible for support under other ARC schemes.
Eligibility	Eligible higher education institutions
Roles	Network Convenor; network participants
Selection criteria	Network strengths (30%); research strengths and opportunities (30%); national benefit (20%); and funding and governance (20%)
Special Research Initiatives	
Frequency	Various as required

Purpose	To support activities that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 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/or ■ enhance the scale and focus of research in priority areas.
Features	In 2007 the scheme funded the Anglo-Australian Observatory (AAO) Fellowship; the Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART); the ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security; and the <i>Thinking Systems</i> and <i>Ageing Well</i> initiatives
Eligibility	Eligible Organisations
Roles	Chief Investigator; Partner Investigator
Selection criteria	Nature and merit of proposal in relation to objectives

Table B2: Research priorities supported through the NCGP, 2007–08

Early-career researchers	
Initiated by	ARC
Priority area	Researchers early in their careers
Description	<p>Each year a portion (up to 15%) of the budget allocation under the <i>Discovery Projects</i> scheme is used to support proposals that involve only researchers within five years of the award of their PhD (termed early-career researchers for this purpose).</p> <p>This change was first introduced in the 2001 selection round (for funding commencing in 2002) in response to concerns that young researchers had become discouraged from applying for <i>Discovery Projects</i> grants, as reflected by falling proposal rates among early-career researchers.</p>
National research priority areas	
Initiated by	Australian Government
Priority areas	An environmentally sustainable Australia; promoting and maintaining good health; frontier technologies for building and transforming Australian industries; and safeguarding Australia
Description	<p>In December 2002 the then Prime Minister announced four national research priorities for research funded by the Australian Government (see above).</p> <p>National research priorities are implemented by the ARC through all schemes of the NCGP. There is no predetermined allocation of funding to research projects in these areas. Proposals are judged on the excellence of the proposed research and researchers involved.</p>
Research in regional and rural issues	
Initiated by	Australian Government
Priority area	Research that will directly benefit regional and rural Australian communities
Description	<p>Each year the ARC targets at least 20 per cent of funding under the <i>Linkage Projects</i> element of the NCGP to research that will directly benefit regional and rural Australian communities.</p> <p>This requirement was announced by the then Government in its <i>Knowledge and Innovation</i> statement of December 1999 as part of a regional package to assist universities to develop regional connections, concentrate research activity into areas of strength, and take advantage of opportunities presented through new fields of research.</p>
Research training in ICT	
Initiated by	Australian Government
Priority area	ICT
Description	<p>Each year, the ARC targets at least 50 new Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry to research training in the field of ICT.</p> <p>These awards, announced in the then Government's industry statement <i>Investing for Growth</i> in 1997, are aimed at fostering partnerships between the ICT industry and higher education researchers to help to ensure that Australia has appropriately skilled personnel for the future.</p>

Table B3: ARC program budgets, 2002 to 2010–11 (May 2007 prices)

Scheme							Per 07-08 Funding Splits ²				Notes
	Calendar year actual 2002	Calendar year actual 2003	Jan-Jun actual 2004 ¹	Financial year actual 2004–05	Financial year actual 2005–06	Financial year actual 2006–07	Financial year estimate 2007–08	Financial year estimate 2008–09	Financial year estimate 2009–10	Financial year estimate 2010–11	
	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	
Discovery Projects (includes Fellowships)	143.683	186.706	102.963	237.044	258.859	280.675	277.582	278.568	284.460	289.111	
Federation Fellowships	7.254	14.253	7.317	22.346	29.930	33.067	36.795	39.800	40.000	40.600	
Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development	0.225	0.236	0.123	0.323	0.411	0.603	0.632	0.612	0.612	0.612	
Sub-total Discovery	151.162	201.195	110.403	259.713	289.200	314.345	315.009	318.980	325.072	330.323	
Linkage Projects	63.767	71.439	38.954	98.546	107.274	117.189	119.610	119.959	125.018	125.106	
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	32.985	20.291	21.509	32.811	36.993	28.106	27.840	27.891	27.942	27.942	
Linkage International	2.610	3.373	1.504	3.610	3.593	4.131	3.534	3.672	3.672	3.672	
Research Centres	21.290	55.799	33.368	84.958	102.494	100.923	98.762	96.403	89.184	83.814	3
Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects	0.462	0.463	0.231	0.483	0.220	0.534	0.477	0.481	0.481	0.481	
Special Research Initiatives	0.092	2.599	0.060	0.170	6.001	4.706	6.568	6.025	5.217	4.458	4
Sub-total Linkage	121.206	153.964	95.626	220.578	256.575	255.589	256.791	254.432	251.514	245.473	
TOTAL	272.368	355.159	206.029	480.291	545.775	569.934	571.800	573.411	576.586	575.796	

Notes

- 1 The *Higher Education Legislation Amendment Act 2003* changed the ARC's program funding to a financial year basis. To make the transition from calendar to financial years, the ARC Act treats the period 1 January 2004 to 30 June 2004 as a financial year.
- 2 These budget estimates are presented in constant 2007-08 dollars and will differ from the outturned figures in the Portfolio Budget Statements due to indexation.
- 3 Includes funding for Special Research Centres, ARC Centres of Excellence, ARC Research Networks, National ICT Australia, Australian Stem Cell Centre and Australian Centre for Plant Functional Genomics.
- 4 Includes funding for *Thinking Systems* initiative, Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching, ARC Centre of Excellence in Creative Industries and Innovation, ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security and *Ageing Well, Ageing Productively* initiative.

Table B4: Proposals submitted and new projects funded, selected schemes, 2001 to 2007

Scheme ¹		Year submitted						
		2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Discovery Projects	Applications (no.)	3 078	3 574	3 240	3 414	3 742	4 033	4 112
	Funded (no.)	784	942	875	1 055	917	822	878
	Success rate (%)	25.5	26.4	27.0	30.9	24.5	20.4	21.4
Federation Fellowships ²	Applications (no.)	267	97	143	188	163	129	157
	Funded (no.)	26	24	25	24	25	20	14
	Success rate (%)	9.7	24.7	17.5	12.8	15.3	15.5	8.9
Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development	Applications (no.)	18	10	13	9	8	21	18
	Funded (no.)	8	6	3	5	5	15	7
	Success rate (%)	44.4	60.0	23.1	55.6	62.5	71.4	38.9
Linkage Projects ³	Applications (no.)	908	1175	1 047	1 048	1 106	957	-
	Funded (no.)	470	586	532	488	400	425	-
	Success rate (%)	51.8	49.9	50.8	46.5	36.2	44.4	-
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	Applications (no.)	127	121	146	159	168	165	155
	Funded (no.)	70	78	75	78	83	73	67
	Success rate (%)	55.1	64.4	51.4	49.1	49.4	44.2	43.2
Linkage International – Fellowships	New applications (no.)	22	22	23	46	79	80	76
	Funded (no.)	12	16	11	19	20	22	22
	Success rate (%)	54.5	72.7	47.8	41.3	25.3	27.5	28.9
Research Centres ⁴	Applications (no.)	-	56	-	97	-	-	-
	Funded (no.)	-	17	-	11	-	-	-
	Success rate (%)	-	30.4	-	11.3	-	-	-
Research Networks ⁵	Applications (no.)	-	291	84	-	-	-	-
	Funded (no.)	-	147	24	-	-	-	-
	Success rate (%)	-	50.5	28.6	-	-	-	-
Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects	Applications (no.)	8	5	5	7	5	6	8
	Funded (no.)	6	5	5	5	4	6	6
	Success rate (%)	75.0	100.0	100.0	71.4	80.0	100.0	75.0

¹ Excludes *Linkage International Awards*, *co-funded Centres of Excellence*, for which a tender process was conducted, and *Special Research Initiatives*.

² Two selection rounds were held for *Federation Fellowships* commencing in 2002: Round 1, which closed in June 2001, and a supplementary round, which closed in February 2002. These rounds have been aggregated under the 2001 submit year for the purpose of this table. 41 applicants who had been unsuccessful in Round 1 submitted proposals in the supplementary round. This 'duplication' of applications affected the success rate of applications in the combined rounds.

³ Includes Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry and Linkage Industry Fellowships where these were not part of other *Linkage Projects* proposals and Linkage Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (CSIRO). As two rounds of *Linkage Projects* are held each year, the statistics shown for each year are aggregated over the two rounds.

⁴ Includes one Centre of Excellence funded under *Special Research Initiatives*.

⁵ In 2003, seed funding was provided to 147 research networks under *Special Research Initiatives*.

Table B5: New projects approved for funding, by field of research, selected schemes¹, 2001 to 2006

Field of research ²	Year submitted					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
Agricultural, veterinary and environmental sciences	68	83	69	65	72	50
Architecture, urban environment and building	15	11	8	15	13	20
Behavioural and cognitive sciences	64	94	86	76	75	62
Biological sciences	208	259	217	235	198	219
Chemical sciences	104	139	112	126	117	97
Commerce, management, tourism and services	38	51	64	55	42	39
Earth sciences	68	89	77	90	67	65
Economics	31	56	33	49	43	36
Education	47	58	42	47	47	40
Engineering and technology	269	341	301	287	234	227
History and archaeology	43	54	54	70	50	57
Information, computing and communication sciences	96	139	113	133	90	83
Journalism, librarianship and curatorial studies	8	11	8	9	10	13
Language and culture	27	48	42	52	39	35
Law, justice and law enforcement	27	34	33	41	40	32
Mathematical sciences	42	71	59	60	62	45
Medical and health sciences	49	53	64	98	75	83
Philosophy and religion	15	18	19	21	26	26
Physical sciences	97	120	107	87	92	87
Policy and political science	26	33	27	30	30	23
Studies in human society	79	83	87	76	70	66
The arts	11	35	28	23	17	27
TOTAL³	1 432	1 880	1 650	1 745	1 509	1 432

¹ Excludes ARC Centres of Excellence, co-funded Centres, Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects and some proposals funded under Special Research Initiatives. Fields of research were not nominated by applicants in these cases (see Note 2 below).

² Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) codes, 2-digit classifications (ABS 1998). Applicants submitting proposals to the ARC are generally invited to classify their proposals to up to three 6-digit RFCD codes and to indicate the proportion of the research content attributable to each of those codes. This distribution has been constructed by reducing the 6-digit codes to their 2-digit 'parent' codes and assigning each funded proposal to a 2-digit code according to the largest or (in the case of equal distributions) the first-listed such code. This table shows the total number of proposals in each 2-digit code group.

³ Excludes projects where an RFCD code was not provided by applicants.

Table B6: Funding commitments to new projects^{1 2}, by field of research, selected schemes³, 2001 to 2006

Field of research ⁴	Year submitted					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)
Agricultural, veterinary and environmental sciences	13.4	16.1	17.8	20.1	22.5	19.8
Architecture, urban environment and building	2.2	1.2	2.4	3.4	3.8	5.3
Behavioural and cognitive sciences	10.3	17.2	20.0	22.7	23.0	20.3
Biological sciences	49.9	98.3	66.8	117.4	68.2	78.3
Chemical sciences	31.6	48.2	38.8	77.3	46.2	33.5
Commerce, management, tourism and services	5.2	5.8	10.2	10.8	7.5	10.2
Earth sciences	19.6	23.7	19.8	46.7	21.3	21.2
Economics	4.5	10.3	6.0	12.1	10.7	12.6
Education	5.7	8.8	7.0	9.2	9.6	8.1
Engineering and technology	57.0	128.5	83.0	109.4	83.7	76.4
History and archaeology	8.0	12.1	12.3	19.5	12.3	15.3
Information, computing and communication sciences	15.8	33.5	24.5	32.7	29.8	21.9
Journalism, librarianship and curatorial studies	1.3	1.8	1.8	2.8	3.7	3.1
Language and culture	4.5	7.3	6.9	13.3	7.6	10.1
Law, justice and law enforcement	6.4	5.5	4.8	9.8	11.5	8.1
Mathematical sciences	10.8	25.7	15.0	17.6	20.3	18.3
Medical and health sciences	12.5	11.0	16.6	31.1	22.6	22.4
Philosophy and religion	3.6	2.6	2.5	6.4	5.6	7.1
Physical sciences	34.6	72.7	40.7	50.7	37.0	44.1
Policy and political science	3.5	4.9	5.6	7.2	8.2	4.7
Studies in human society	12.8	13.2	17.9	18.8	17.2	15.0
The arts	2.4	6.8	5.5	5.3	4.2	6.0
TOTAL	315.5	555.2	425.9	644.2	476.7	461.7

¹ Excludes potential half-year extensions for Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry.

² Funding commitments for the life of the projects.

³ Excludes *co-funded Centres*, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*. Fields of research were not nominated by applicants in these cases (see Note 3 below).

⁴ Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCD) codes, 2-digit classifications (ABS 1998). Applicants submitting proposals to the ARC are generally invited to classify their proposals to up to three 6-digit RFCD codes and to indicate the proportion of the research content attributable to each of those codes. This distribution has been constructed by reducing the 6-digit codes to their 2-digit 'parent' codes and assigning each funded proposal to a 2-digit code according to the largest or (in the case of equal distributions) the first-listed such code. This table shows the total value of proposals in each 2-digit code group.

Table B7: Funding to approved proposals, as proportion of funding sought by those proposals¹, selected schemes, 2001 to 2006

Scheme	Year submitted					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Discovery Projects						
Funding requested (\$m)	324.3	415.0	376.4	488.8	496.0	502.0
Funding approved (\$m)	193.4	234.5	237.9	297.5	273.6	274.8
Proportion funded (%)	59.6	56.5	63.2	60.9	55.1	54.7
Linkage Projects						
Funding requested (\$m)	84.6	127.9	133.5	140.8	141.0	174.7
Funding approved (\$m)	72.7	101.1	115.2	111.4	110.5	119.7
Proportion funded (%)	85.9	79.0	86.3	79.1	78.4	68.5
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities						
Funding requested (\$m)	34.0	36.2	38.4	37.3	45.1	40.6
Funding approved (\$m)	26.6	27.7	28.2	30.4	37.3	27.6
Proportion funded (%)	78.2	76.5	73.4	81.5	82.7	68.0

¹ The total amount of funding sought in proposals made to the ARC is many times this amount.

Table B8: Number of new and ongoing projects¹, all schemes, 2002 to 2007

Schemes	Funding year					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
Discovery Projects	2 297	2 440	2 532	2 865	3 007	2 954
Federation Fellowships	25	49	74	98	115	118
Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development	13	12	11	9	10	20
Linkage Projects ²	1 596	1 770	1 852	1 887	1 850	1 565
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	70	78	75	78	83	74
Linkage International	182	174	227	194	172	172
Research Centres	30	42	42	45	38	39
Research Networks	-	-	24	24	24	24
Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects	6	5	5	5	4	6
Special Research Initiatives ³	-	147	-	37	37	3
TOTAL	4 219	4 717	4 842	5 242	5 340	4 963

¹ Includes projects which, at the time of Ministerial approval, were expected to receive an ARC grant payment in the year shown. Some of those projects may subsequently have been abandoned. Includes projects funded under counterpart pre-NCGP schemes and still receiving funding after the commencement of the NCGP.

² Includes Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry and Linkage Industry Fellowships where these were not part of other *Linkage Projects* proposals and Linkage Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (CSIRO). As two rounds of *Linkage Projects* are held each year, the statistics shown for each year are aggregated over the two rounds.

³ Includes seed funding for research networks; excludes ARC Research Networks, which are shown separately in this table.

Table B9: Incidence of cross-disciplinarity in proposals submitted to the ARC, selected schemes¹, 2001 to 2006

Year submitted	Single discipline ²		Cross-disciplinary ³		Total	
	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(%)
2001	3 098	70.5	1 295	29.5	4 393	100.0
2002	3 514	66.4	1 776	33.6	5 290	100.0
2003	3 298	65.3	1 749	34.7	5 047	100.0
2004	3 296	63.3	1 908	36.7	5 204	100.0
2005	3 483	63.2	2 026	36.8	5 509	100.0
2006	3 551	63.4	2 048	36.6	5 599	100.0

¹ Excludes *Centres of Excellence*, *co-funded Centres*, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*. Fields of research were not nominated by applicants in these cases (see note to Tables 6 and 7).

² Proposals where the applicant indicated that more than 70 per cent of the research content in the proposal lay within a single 2-digit RFCD code.

³ Proposals where the applicant indicated that the research content was distributed over at least two 2-digit RFCD codes, with no more than 70 per cent in any one of those codes.

Table B10: Success of cross-disciplinary proposals submitted to the ARC, selected schemes¹, 2001 to 2006

Year submitted	Single discipline ²			Cross-disciplinary ³			Total		
	Applied	Funded	Success rate	Applied	Funded	Success rate	Applied	Funded	Success rate
	(no.)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(no.)	(%)	(no.)	(no.)	(%)
2001	3 098	996	32.1	1 295	427	33.0	4 393	1 423	32.4
2002	3 514	1 176	33.5	1 776	587	33.1	5 290	1 763	33.3
2003	3 298	1 130	34.3	1 749	622	35.6	5 047	1 754	34.8
2004	3 296	1 139	34.6	1 908	654	34.3	5 204	1 793	34.5
2005	3 483	946	27.2	2 026	562	27.7	5 509	1 508	27.4
2006	3 551	920	25.9	2 048	512	25.0	5 599	1 432	25.6

¹ Excludes *Centres of Excellence*, *co-funded Centres*, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*. Fields of research were not nominated by applicants in these cases (see note to Tables 6 and 7).

² Proposals where the applicant indicated that more than 70 per cent of the research content in the proposal lay within a single 2-digit RFCD code.

³ Proposals where the applicant indicated that the research content was distributed over at least two 2-digit RFCD codes, with no more than 70 per cent in any one of those codes.

Table B11: ARC-funded awards and fellowships, new, 2002 to 2007

Scheme	First year of funding					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
Postgraduate awards ¹	397	461	426	389	304	295
Fellowships ²	190	198	207	200	198	229
International fellowships ³	12	16	11	19	20	22
Federation Fellowships ⁴	26	24	25	24	25	20
Total	625	699	669	632	547	566

¹ Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry.

² Includes Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships, Australian Research Fellowships, Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships, Australian Professorial Fellowships and Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry.

³ *Linkage International* Fellowships are funded for one year only.

⁴ Two selection rounds were held for *Federation Fellowships* commencing in 2002: Round 1, which closed in June 2001, and a supplementary round, which closed in February 2002. These rounds have been aggregated under the 2002 first year of funding for the purpose of this table.

Table B12: Early Career Researcher awards and fellowships, *Discovery Projects*, 2002 to 2008

		First year of funding						
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Early career researcher (ECR) ¹	Applications (no.)	653	861	663	747	860	869	742
	Funded (no.)	161	162	138	171	155	127	128
	Success rate (%)	24.7	18.8	20.8	22.9	18.0	14.6	17.3
Fellowships	Applications (no.)	830	1 005	871	1 010	1 159	1 276	1 228
	Funded (no.)	163	166	161	167	168	197	206
	Success rate (%)	19.6	16.5	18.5	16.5	14.5	15.4	16.8

¹ ECR-only applications; excludes ECRs in applications involving non-ECR participants.

Table B13: Industry-linked awards and fellowships, *Linkage Projects*, 2002 to 2007

Award		First year of funding ¹					
		2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry	Applications (no.)	822	1 012	775	878	886	796
	Funded (no.)	397	461	426	389	304	295
	Success rate (%)	48.3	45.6	55.0	44.3	34.3	37.1
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry	Applications (no.)	59	73	82	75	62	76
	Funded (no.)	27	32	46	33	30	32
	Success rate (%)	45.8	43.8	56.1	44.0	48.4	42.1
Linkage Industry Fellowships	Applications (no.)	-	-	6	7	4	2
	Funded (no.)	-	-	3	3	-	1
	Success rate (%)	-	-	50.0	42.9	0	50.0

Table B14: ARC-funded fellowship holders, by scheme and number of fellowships held¹, 1998 to 2006

ARC Scheme	No. of fellowships held by each fellowship holder over period ²			
	One	Two	Three	Total
Discovery Projects	814	21	-	835
Federation Fellowship	100	19	4	123
Linkage Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship CSIRO	10	-	-	10
Linkage Projects	172	1	-	173
Research Fellowships Scheme	289	56	-	345
Strategic Partnerships with Industry for Research and Training	71	-	-	71
Total	1456	97	4	1557

¹ Includes Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships, Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry, Linkage Industry Fellowships, Linkage-Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship CSIRO, Australian Research Fellowships, Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships, Australian Professorial Fellowships and Federation Fellowships.

² Totals include double-counting of fellowship holders who have held fellowships under more than one scheme during this period.

Table B15: ARC salary and stipend rates¹ for Discovery and Linkage, 2002 to 2008

Award	Funding year						
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (APD)	49 621	52 240	53 567	54 692	59 000	60 195	61 399
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship Industry (APDI)	49 621	52 240	53 567	54 692	59 000	60 195	61 399
Linkage - Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship CSIRO (APDC)	49 621	52 240	53 567	54 692	59 000	60 195	61 399
Indigenous Research Fellowship ²	49 621	52 240	53 567	54 692	59 000	60 195	61 399
Australian Research Fellowship (ARF)							
Step 1	62 755	65 210	66 867	68 271	74 000	75 498	77 008
Step 2	74 483	77 497	79 465	81 134	88 000	89 782	91 578
Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship (QEII)							
Step 1	62 755	65 210	66 867	68 271	74 000	75 498	77 008
Step 2	74 483	77 497	79 465	81 134	88 000	89 782	91 578
Australian Professorial Fellowship (APF)							
Step 1	82 152	89 516	91 790	93 718	102 000	104 065	106 146
Step 2	100 078	105 125	107 795	110 059	118 000	120 389	122 797
Federation Fellowship (FF)	-	235 201	241 224	246 290	250 970	256 052	261 173
Australian Postgraduate Award Industry (APAI)							
<i>Amount paid to institutions</i>							
Full year	23 033	23 556	24 148	24 650 ⁷	25 118	25 627	26 140
Half year	11 386	11 647	11 943	12 325	12 559	12 813	13 069
<i>Annual stipend rates for students</i>							
Full year ³	22 771	23 294	23 886	24 650	25 118	25 627	26 140
Half year ⁴	12 366	12 650	13 160	13 463	13 719	13 997	14 277

¹ Rates shown exclude the loading for on-costs (currently 28 per cent) which is paid by the ARC. Allowances (relocation and thesis) are additional where paid. Full details of salary and stipend rates and allowances are contained in http://www.arc.gov.au/apply_grants/salaries.htm

² Previously known as Research Cadetship - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (RC-ATSI)

³ Tax free.

⁴ Part time stipends are taxable.

Table B16: Investigators on proposals submitted to the ARC, selected schemes¹, 2001 to 2006

Number of investigators named ²	Year submitted					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
On proposals submitted	8 889	11 006	16 219	12 779	12 538	14 777
On proposals funded	3 475	4 447	7 774	4 962	4 125	4 681

¹ Excludes *co-funded Centres*, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*.

² An individual may be named as an investigator on more than one proposal. This listing includes such multiple incidences.

Note: Proposals submitted for *ARC Research Networks* in 2003 included a large number of investigators. This contributed to the large increase in investigator numbers in that year.

Table B17: Investigators on ARC-funded projects, by number of grants held, 1998 to 2007

Number of grants held over period ¹	1998 to 2007	
	Number of investigators ²	Per cent of all investigators on grants funded over period
1	11 265	59.1
2	3 147	16.5
3	1 575	8.3
4	842	4.4
5	622	3.3
6	399	2.1
7	290	1.5
8	206	1.1
9	173	0.9
10	124	0.7
More than 10	414	2.2
Total	19 057	100.0

¹ Includes all ARC schemes (including pre-NCGP schemes) other than *Centres of Excellence*, *Key Centres*, *Special Research Centres*, *co-funded Centres*, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*.

² Includes all named investigators on each funded project.

Table B18: Collaboration with researchers in other countries¹ in ARC-funded research, selected schemes², 2002 to 2007

Year first funded ³	ARC-funded proposals indicating intended collaboration with researchers in other countries	
	(no.)	(% of all funded proposals)
2002	589	41.1
2003	792	42.1
2004	917	55.6
2005	925	53.1
2006	807	53.6
2007	809	56.6

¹ Applicants submitting proposals to the ARC are generally invited to indicate whether they expect to collaborate with researchers in other countries and, if so, to name that country and any collaborating individuals or organizations in that country. This table has been compiled from those indicated intentions.

² Excludes *co-funded Centres, Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*.

Table B19: ARC-funded research proposals indicating intended collaboration with researchers in other countries, by field of research, selected schemes¹, 2002 to 2007

Field of research ²	First year funded					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
Agricultural, veterinary and environmental sciences	19	25	37	18	30	26
Architecture, urban environment and building	2	-	2	4	7	8
Behavioural and cognitive sciences	18	37	42	31	42	43
Biological sciences	90	106	133	131	104	124
Chemical sciences	47	77	75	83	74	59
Commerce, management, tourism and services	14	16	17	20	12	18
Earth sciences	41	60	55	67	56	54
Economics	7	16	20	28	22	19
Education	11	13	9	8	8	7
Engineering and technology	99	130	163	162	134	129
History and archaeology	14	21	27	33	24	40
Information, computing and communication sciences	43	62	72	74	41	51
Journalism, librarianship and curatorial studies	4	1	4	5	3	4
Language and culture	7	14	12	22	13	10
Law, justice and law enforcement	7	6	16	17	12	14
Mathematical sciences	40	51	47	52	51	41
Medical and health sciences	13	18	25	34	26	24
Philosophy and religion	9	5	9	12	17	12
Physical sciences	71	96	86	79	80	78
Policy and political science	8	12	13	11	10	11
Studies in human society	22	16	42	25	33	26
The arts	3	10	11	9	8	11
TOTAL	589	792	917	925	807	809

¹ Excludes *Centres of Excellence*, *co-funded Centres*, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*. Fields of research were not nominated by applicants in these cases (see following note).

² Research Fields, Courses and Disciplines (RFCDD) codes, 2-digit classifications (ABS 1998). Applicants submitting proposals to the ARC are generally invited to classify their proposals to up to three 6-digit RFCDD codes and to indicate the proportion of the research content attributable to each of those codes. This distribution has been constructed for funded proposals indicating an intention to collaborate with researchers overseas by reducing the 6-digit codes to their 2-digit 'parent' codes and assigning each funded proposal to a 2-digit code according to the largest or (in the case of equal distributions) the first-listed such code. This table shows the total number of proposals in each 2-digit code group. A proposal may have indicated more than one country of intended collaboration.

Table B20: Incidences of intended collaboration¹ in ARC-funded research, by country, selected schemes², 2002 to 2007

Country of intended collaboration	Year first funded					
	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
United States	296	421	485	511	422	429
United Kingdom	165	248	333	348	261	270
Germany	109	143	190	164	134	142
France	87	112	123	117	103	93
Canada	66	93	138	139	110	99
Japan	65	95	138	113	86	93
China, People's Republic of	39	47	84	76	59	67
New Zealand	35	32	89	76	55	60
Italy	25	43	64	65	48	43
Netherlands, The	31	43	74	44	45	41
Sweden	31	48	53	45	36	35
Switzerland	25	30	43	34	21	42
Singapore	15	19	40	32	31	16
Korea, Republic of	19	22	41	21	23	13
Indonesia	7	15	29	29	23	15
Denmark	12	17	32	32	19	23
South Africa	12	24	21	16	22	19
Spain	13	19	20	24	21	18
Hong Kong	13	17	26	24	18	10
Other	173	215	328	305	251	230
Total	1 238	1 703	2 323	2 215	1 788	1 758

¹ Applicants submitting proposals to the ARC are generally invited to indicate whether they expect to collaborate with researchers in other countries and, if so, to name that country and any collaborating individuals or organisations in that country. This table has been compiled from those indicated intentions. A single proposal may involve intended collaboration with more than one country. In such cases, multiple incidences of collaboration will be recorded in this table.

² Excludes *co-funded Centres, Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*.

Table B21: Collaboration with researchers in other Australian universities in ARC-funded research, selected schemes¹, 2002 to 2007

Year first funded	ARC-funded proposals indicating intended collaboration with researchers in other universities	
	(no.)	(no.)
2002	307	21.4
2003	528	28.1
2004	369	22.4
2005	447	25.6
2006	342	22.7
2007	360	25.3

¹ Applicants submitting proposals to the ARC are generally invited to indicate whether they expect to collaborate with researchers in other universities and, if so, to name that university. This table has been compiled from those indicated intentions. A single proposal may include intended collaboration with more than one other university.

² Excludes *co-funded Centres, Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* and some proposals funded under *Special Research Initiatives*.

Table B22: Participation by partner organisations in *Linkage Projects*, 2001 to 2006

Year submitted ¹	Partner organisations collaborating on research proposals	Partner organisations collaborating on funded proposals	Per cent of partner organisations whose proposals are funded
	(no.)	(no.)	(%)
2001	1 398	738	52.8
2002	1 899	948	49.9
2003	1 800	939	52.2
2004	1 869	895	47.9
2005	2 060	764	37.1
2006	1 876	861	45.9

¹ Commencing in 2003, two rounds of *Linkage Projects* were held each year. For the purpose of this table, the outcomes of the two rounds are aggregated to yield a total for each calendar year.

Table B23: Partner organisations in *Linkage Projects*, by organisation type, 2004 to 2006

Organisation type ¹	Submit year 2004 ³		Submit year 2005 ³		Submit year 2006	
	Proposals	Funded	Proposals	Funded	Proposals	Funded
	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
Company / Industry body - Australian ²	528	234	615	232	609	251
Company / Industry body - International ²	147	77	166	77	182	93
Government – Commonwealth	108	63	104	43	119	64
Government – State and local	648	331	729	257	627	309
Government – International	30	16	50	19	37	15
Non-Profit – Australian	386	164	374	129	274	118
Non-Profit - International	22	10	22	7	28	11
Total	1 869	895	2 060	764	1 876	861

¹ *Linkage Projects* application forms have included a field for organisation type since Round 1 2005 (submitted in 2004). Partner organisations are invited to classify their organisation into one of the mutually exclusive types shown. More than one partner organisation may be involved in any single *Linkage Projects* proposal.

² Described in 2004 as Private Company – Australian and Private Company – International respectively.

³ Commencing in 2003, two rounds of *Linkage Projects* were held each year. For the purpose of this table, the outcomes of the two rounds are aggregated to yield a total for each calendar year.

Table B24: Contributions of partner organisations in *Linkage Projects*, 2001 to 2006

Contributions ²	Year submitted ¹					
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)
Partner organisations on proposals						
Cash contribution (\$m)	54.0	82.3	77.3	89.5	112.5	124.1
In kind contribution (\$m)	137.1	199.4	193.3	213.3	267.9	278.7
Total contribution (\$m)	191.1	281.7	270.6	302.8	380.4	402.8
Partner organisations on funded proposals						
Cash contribution (\$m)	33.1	47.6	49.6	51.4	60.4	69.8
In kind contribution (\$m)	86.8	111.0	114.4	121.7	114.9	149.9
Total contribution (\$m)	120.0	158.6	164.0	173.0	175.2	219.7
ARC commitment (\$m)	72.7	101.1	115.2	111.4	110.5	119.7
Cash contribution to funded proposals by partner organisations as proportion of ARC commitment (%)	45.5	47.1	43.1	46.1	54.7	58.3

¹ Commencing in 2003, two rounds of *Linkage Projects* were held each year. For the purpose of this table, the outcomes of the two rounds are aggregated to yield a total for each calendar year.

² Partner contributions are derived from proposals. Actual contributions may vary from those indicated in the proposal.

Table B25: Contributions of partner organisations to funded proposals in *Linkage Projects*, by organisation type, Rounds 1 and 2, 2006 and 2007

Organisation type	Cash contribution ¹		In kind contribution ¹		Total contribution ¹	
	(\$m)		(\$m)		(\$m)	
	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007
Company / Industry body						
Australian	21.5	25.6	45.1	55.5	66.6	81.1
International	15.5	13.2	17.8	24.3	33.3	37.5
Government body						
Commonwealth	3.2	7.6	4.0	8.4	7.3	16.0
State and Local	13.0	15.9	28.1	43.9	41.1	59.8
International	0.7	1.2	3.6	3.2	4.3	4.4
Non-profit organisation						
Australian	4.6	5.6	14.8	12.2	19.4	17.8
International	1.9	0.6	1.4	2.5	3.3	3.1
Total	60.4	69.7	114.9	150.0	175.3	219.7

¹ Partner contributions are derived from proposals. Actual contributions may vary from those indicated in the proposal.

Table B26: National Research Priorities in new projects approved for funding commencing in 2007, selected schemes

National research priority (NRP) ¹	Scheme / Funding over project life			
	Discovery Projects	Federation Fellowships	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities	Linkage Projects
	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)	(\$m)
1. An environmentally sustainable Australia	42.8	4.8	3.0	38.3
2. Promoting and maintaining good health	45.5	5.6	1.2	32.6
3. Frontier technologies for building and transforming Australian industries	115.0	24.0	23.4	31.3
4. Safeguarding Australia	35.8	0.0	0.0	11.8
Total research priority areas	239.2	34.4	27.6	114.1
Total of selected schemes	274.8	36.0	27.6	119.7
NRP as per cent of selected schemes	87.1	95.6	100.0	95.2

¹ Applicants to ARC schemes are generally invited to indicate whether their proposal falls within one of the National Research Priority areas. This table has been constructed based on applicants' assessments of the relevance of their proposed research content to those priority areas.