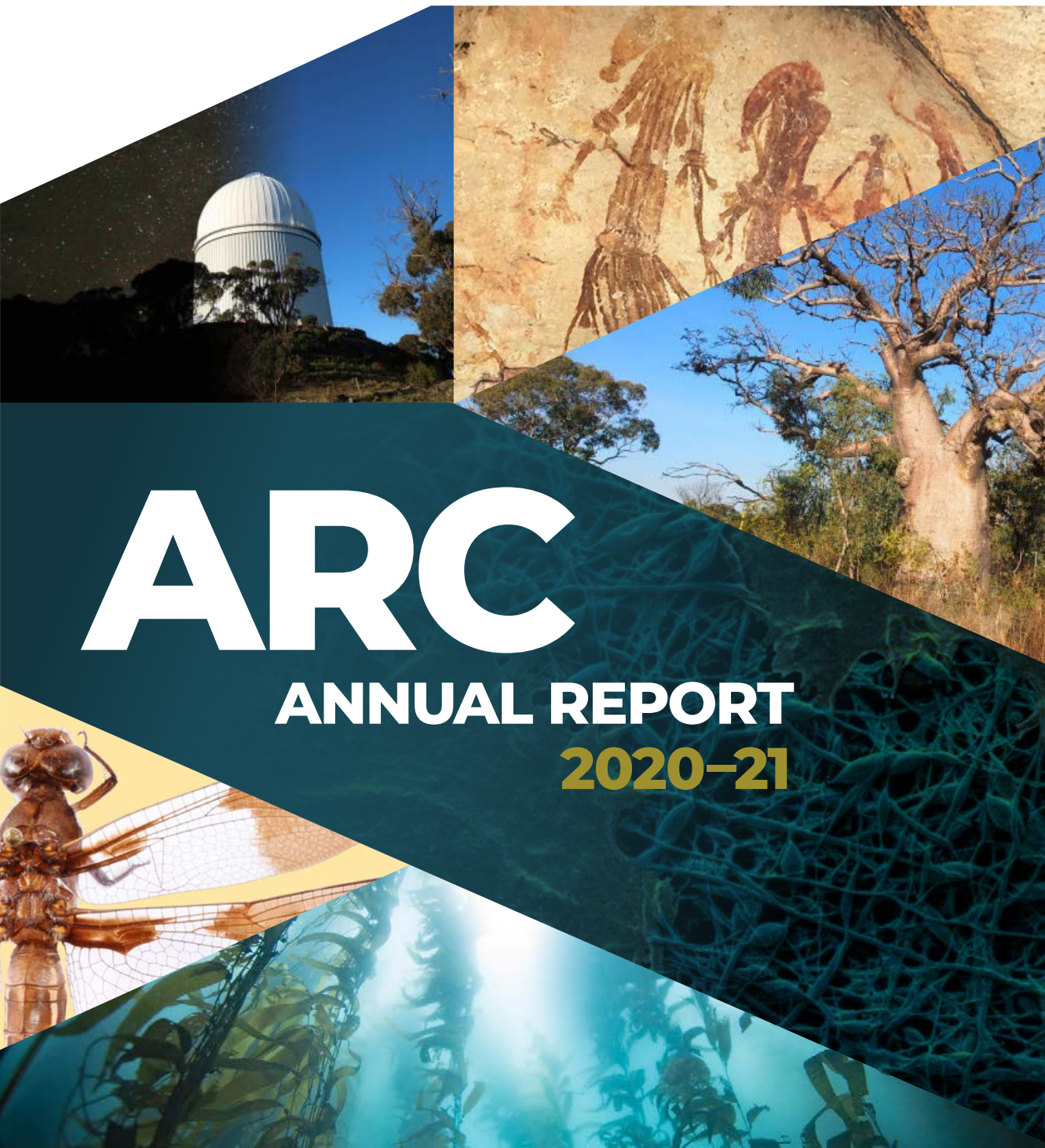




Australian Government
Australian Research Council



ARC

ANNUAL REPORT
2020–21

ARC – CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is a Commonwealth entity that was established as an independent body under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*. The ARC is directly descended from the Australian Research Grants Committee that was established in 1946. Over the years the ARC has evolved in function, structure and reporting arrangements. It continues to advise the Australian Government on research matters, administers the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP), a significant component of Australia's investment in research and development, and has responsibility for Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and Engagement and Impact Assessment (EI).

VISION

Research for a creative, innovative and productive Australia



\$13 billion

in grant funds awarded since 2001



38,000+

Researchers (Chief and Partner Investigators) named as participants on ARC funded projects over the last 20 years



4 rounds

of ERA undertaken since 2010



1st round

of Engagement and Impact (EI) run in 2018



29,000+

research grants awarded to grow knowledge and innovation in the last 20 years



9,000+

institutions across Australia and the world have partnered on ARC grants since 2001



74

Centres of Excellence established with ARC funding



143

employees work at the ARC in 2021 compared to 53 in 2001

Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Research Council acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to lands, waters and communities. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past and present.

Cover images

All images on the front cover represent ARC funded research as published within our *Making a Difference 2020–21* annual magazine. Please turn to page 59 of the ARC Annual Report 2020–21 for more information.

The ARC is established as an independent body under the *ARC Act 2001*.
Professor Vicki Sara is appointed CEO



2001

First funding outcomes of the Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities; Special Research Initiatives; Linkage Projects; Discovery Projects and; Discovery Indigenous Researcher Development schemes

2002



First funding outcomes of the Federation Fellowships and Centres of Excellence schemes



2003

Professor Margaret Sheil is appointed CEO.

The ARC expands to take responsibility for ERA. The ARC Advisory Council is established



2007

2004



Professor Peter Høj is appointed CEO

2009



The Australian Research Integrity Committee is established; the ARC's Research Management System is launched; first funding outcomes of the Future Fellowships scheme and the Australian Laureate Fellowships scheme (replaced the Federation Fellowships scheme) are announced. The ERA 2009 trial is completed

The first comprehensive ERA 2010 National Report is delivered



2010

Professor Aidan Byrne is appointed CEO.

First funding outcomes of the Discovery Indigenous scheme (replaced the Discovery Indigenous Researcher Development scheme) and the Industrial Transformation Research Program Research Hubs and Training Centres schemes. The ERA 2012 National Report is delivered



2012

2011



First funding outcomes of the Discovery Early Career Researcher scheme

2015



The ERA 2015 National Report is delivered. The ARC publishes its first *Reconciliation Action Plan*

The ARC introduces a continuous Linkage Projects scheme



2016

2017



Professor Sue Thomas is appointed CEO. The ARC publishes the first edition of its annual *Making a Difference* magazine celebrating ARC-funded research

The inaugural EI 2018 takes place; ERA 2018 National Report; and Gender and the Research Workforce Report delivered



2018

2020



ARC Research Grants Services commences

The ARC celebrates 20 years as an independent statutory agency



2021

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT

Produced by:	Australian Research Council
Location:	11 Lancaster Place, CANBERRA AIRPORT ACT 2609
Postal address:	GPO Box 2702, CANBERRA ACT 2601
Telephone:	+61 2 6287 6600
Email:	info@arc.gov.au (general enquiries) communications@arc.gov.au (media enquiries)
Website:	www.arc.gov.au
Annual Report:	www.arc.gov.au/policies-strategies/policy/annual-reports-australian-research-council
Annual Report contact officer:	Director, Governance and Corporate Reporting
Designed by:	Typeyard Design & Advertising
ISSN (print)	1444982x
ISSN (digital)	22020683

© Commonwealth of Australia 2021

All material presented on this website is provided under a *CC Attribution-Non-Commercial - No Derivatives 4.0 International* (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0) license with the exception of the Commonwealth Coat of Arms, the Australian Research Council (ARC) logo, images, signatures and where otherwise stated. The details of the relevant license conditions are available on the Creative Commons website (www.creativecommons.org > Licenses > [by-nc-nd/4.0](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/)) as is the full legal code for the CC Attribution BY-NC-ND 4.0 license ([www.creativecommons.org](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode) > Licenses > [by-nc-nd 4.0 legal code](http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/4.0/legalcode)). Requests and enquiries regarding this license should be addressed to ARC Legal Services on +61 2 6287 6600.

Web versions of the ARC Annual Report 2020–21 are conformant with WCAG 2.1 Level AA accessibility requirements.

Front cover images

Image: Day and night at the Anglo Australian Telescope, used to conduct the star survey at Siding Spring in rural New South Wales. **Credit:** Dr Ángel R. López-Sánchez/Australian Astronomical Optics/Macquarie University/ASTRO 3D.

Image: The Gwion Gwion paintings were created by the ancestors of the Balanggarra people. **Credit:** Mark Jones.

Image: One of the iconic boab trees with a carving in the Kimberley, WA. **Credit:** Jane Balme.

Image: Diamond silk fibres are electro spun to form porous membranes, shown in bluish green colour, with the golden-brown colour representing the skin cell growth on the membrane. **Credit:** colour enhanced image treatment by Daniel Oldfield.

Image: A kelp forest. **Credit:** Camille Pagniello, California Sea Grant, Scripps Institution of Oceanography UC San Diego.

Image: Common whitetail dragonfly. **Credit:** Public domain image by Christopher Johnson (Insects Unlocked, University of Texas at Austin).

5 October 2021
The Hon Alan Tudge MP
Minister for Education and Youth
Parliament House CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

It is with great pleasure that I present the Australian Research Council Annual Report 2020–21. This report has been prepared for the purposes of:

- section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*, which requires that an annual report be given to the entity's responsible Minister for presentation to the Parliament
- section 46 of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act), which requires that the report given to you must deal with:
 - any matters required by other provisions of the ARC Act to be dealt with in the report (Ministerial directions)
 - any other matters that the Minister, by notice in writing to the CEO, requires to be dealt with in the report.
- all other enabling legislation that specifies requirements in relation to the report.

There were no relevant matters to be dealt with in the Annual Report 2020–21 as required under section 46 of the ARC Act.

As the Accountable Authority of the ARC, I certify that:

- fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared
- appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the ARC are in place
- all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the ARC.

Yours sincerely



Professor Sue Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

CONTENTS

Letter of transmittal	iii
A guide to this report	v
PART 1 REVIEW BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY	2
1.1 From the Chief Executive Officer	3
1.2 Highlights of 2020–21	9
PART 2 AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL OVERVIEW	16
2.1 Role and functions	17
2.2 Organisational structure	19
2.3 Performance framework	21
PART 3 REPORT ON PERFORMANCE	24
3.1 Annual Performance Statements	25
3.2 Financial performance	69
PART 4 MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY	72
4.1 Corporate governance	73
4.2 External scrutiny	87
4.3 Management of human resources	89
4.4 Assets management	102
4.5 Purchasing	103
4.6 Consultancy and non-consultancy contracts	104
4.7 Australian National Audit Office access clauses and exempt contracts	107
4.8 Procurement initiatives to support small business	108
4.9 Other mandatory information	109

PART 5 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS	112
5.1 Independent Auditor's report	113
5.2 Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer	116
5.3 Australian Research Council financial report	117
PART 6 APPENDICES	164
Appendix 1 National Competitive Grants Program	165
Appendix 2 National Competitive Grants program statistics	168
Appendix 3 Resource statements	171
Appendix 4 Other mandatory information	173
PART 7 AIDS TO ACCESS	180
List of figures and tables	181
Abbreviations and acronyms	183
Glossary	185
Compliance index	187
Alphabetical index	202

A guide to this report

Style conventions

The following style conventions are used in the report:

- acronyms are spelt out for their first use in each part, except for the acronym for the Australian Research Council—ARC, and the acronym for the Chief Executive Officer—CEO, which are used throughout
- n/a means not applicable.

ARC SNAPSHOT

VISION Research for a creative, innovative and productive Australia

The ARC administered

6.8%



of the Australian
Government's 2020–21
investment in
**RESEARCH AND
DEVELOPMENT**

Supporting

12,339

RESEARCHERS on new
and ongoing NCGP grants

22

Recommendations
to be implemented
from the **REVIEW OF
ERA AND EI**



The ARC receives
and processes

6,000+



APPLICATIONS
each year

1,909

PARTNER ORGANISATIONS
(including industry)
participating in new and
ongoing research projects
in 2020–21

172

new and ongoing
INDIGENOUS-RELATED
research projects
funded in 2020–21

1,100+



new research projects
funded each year

\$807m

to **BASIC AND APPLIED**
research in 2020–21
(for new and
ongoing projects)

The ARC's Research
Management System
(RMS) supports over

115,500
ACTIVE USERS



The ERA 2018
assessment included



506,294

RESEARCH OUTPUTS
from 76,261 researchers

7,398 ASSESSORS
taking part in peer review
processes, providing

20,050

assessments

PART 01

REVIEW BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

1.1	From the Chief Executive Officer	3
1.2	Highlights of 2020–21	9

INTRODUCTION

As the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Australian Research Council (ARC), I am pleased to present the ARC Annual Report 2020–21.

2021 marks 20 years since the ARC was established as an independent body under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act) and I would like to acknowledge the significant contributions of ARC staff and the leadership by each of the ARC's Chief Executive Officers over that time.

During 2020–21, the COVID-19 pandemic continued to create an unprecedented and uniquely challenging environment for the ARC and the Australian research community. Despite these challenges, with the support of our community of peer reviewers, we have continued to deliver all scheduled outcomes of our grant schemes to the research sector. In 2020–21, the ARC provided approximately \$806.2 million in research funding through the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). This represented approximately 6.8% of the Australian Government's \$11.9 billion investment in research and development. Over 1,200 new research projects commenced, ranging from fellowships and blue-sky basic research to applied research with significant university-industry collaborations.

The ARC strives to be adaptive, proactive and innovative as we engage with our stakeholders and the broader community. I am incredibly proud that the agency was able to adapt effectively throughout 2020–21 to address COVID-19 impacts and disruptions. Our workforce adjusted productively to working remotely and transitioning back to the office as restrictions were lifted. In 2020–21 we ran all our grant selection advisory committee meetings via videoconference and shifted many of our outreach activities with external stakeholders online. This included recording video messages for opening events, delivering webinar presentations to potential applicants, holding online meetings with key stakeholders and online training sessions for research administrators and fellowship inductions.

In 2020–21, the ARC began providing grant services for other Australian Government agencies, offering the first program through our Research Grants Services (RGS) – the National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG) program.



Professor Sue Thomas, ARC CEO

During the year, we continued to address the ongoing risk of foreign interference related to ARC grants activity and strengthened safeguards to ensure appropriate management of those risks. We also finalised our review of Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and Engagement and Impact Assessment (EI) and continued to provide timely, impartial and expert research policy advice, and actively sought opportunities to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of our processes.

The Annual Report is a key opportunity for the ARC to document these accomplishments, and many of the other outcomes we have achieved over the last 12 months.

FUNDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY RESEARCH

The ARC remains committed to funding nationally and internationally competitive research. In 2020–21 the NCGP supported 1,269 new research projects, with 2,892 researchers named as participants.

The ARC recognises the importance of ensuring the funding we administer delivers outcomes that benefit the Australian community. The value of the NCGP is reflected in the benefits delivered through individual research projects and the underlying support it provides to the Australian research and innovation system. Our research grants balance funding for 'blue sky' fundamental research that shapes the long-term future of Australia and applied collaborative research with industry partners targeted at addressing current priorities. Our grants support researchers at all career stages and provide research training and mentoring opportunities.

Our schemes invest in the infrastructure, equipment and facilities underpinning Australia's international research competitiveness and encourage university researchers to productively partner with commercial, government, community and international stakeholders.

ASSESSING THE QUALITY, ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT OF RESEARCH

With the completion of 4 rounds of ERA, the ARC now holds detailed longitudinal data on the Australian university research sector spanning 14 years. This increasingly rich dataset enables the ARC to provide in-depth and comprehensive information about the state of Australian university research.

In 2020, the ARC engaged the ERA EI Review Advisory Committee (Committee) consisting of leaders and experts from the university, industry, government and community sectors to conduct a comprehensive review of the ERA and EI programs. In 2021, the Committee provided the ARC with the *ERA EI Review Final Report* detailing 22 recommendations to improve the value of research assessment for Australia, streamline the programs through smarter uses of data and technology, and maintain best practice in research assessment into the future. The recommendations also include a new vision and objectives for ERA and EI, measures to make ERA and EI more transparent, robust and useful to stakeholders (including improved recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and other Indigenous research) and

measures to make participation in ERA and EI easier for universities. The ARC accepted all recommendations from the review and in June 2021 published the *ERA EI Review Final Report* and the *ERA and EI Action Plan*, which details the ARC's plan to implement changes for future rounds of ERA and EI. Both documents are available on the the ARC's website, www.arc.gov.au > Home > Excellence in Research for Australia > [ERA EI Review](#).

The Committee was supported by several expert working groups and input from a wide range of stakeholders through public and targeted consultations. Submissions to the public consultation stage were published on the [ARC website](#). The ARC values the participation of its stakeholders in this review and is grateful for all contributions made, especially in light of the challenges arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

PROVIDING ADVICE ON RESEARCH MATTERS

The ARC engages in a range of research policy development activities to underpin program delivery. During 2020–21 the ARC:

- continued to actively monitor and engage with global developments in Open Access and Open Data
- partnered in the development of further guides supporting the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*
- partnered in an ongoing review of the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007, updated in 2018)*
- partnered in a review of the *Australian Code for the Care and use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013, updated 2021)*
- reviewed and updated the:
 - *ARC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers and Research Statement*
 - *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy*, www.arc.gov.au > Policies-Strategies > Policy > [arc-conflict-interest-and-confidentiality-policy](#)
 - *ARC Eligibility and Career Interruptions Statement*
 - *ARC Intellectual Property Policy*
 - *ARC Research Integrity Policy*
 - *ARC Medical Research Policy*
 - *ARC Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) Statement*.

BUILDING AND SUSTAINING A STRONG ORGANISATIONAL CAPACITY

The ARC managed resourcing of \$834.6 million in 2020–21, comprising \$812.1 million for the administered appropriation and \$22.5 million for the departmental appropriation. Of the ARC's administered resourcing, \$806.2 million funded grants through the NCGP. Further information on the financial performance of the agency is provided in **Section 3.2**.

A key achievement in 2020–21 was the proven capability of the ARC Information and Communication Technology (ICT) systems to support ARC staff to work from home in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and continue to interact with stakeholders via online platforms. The ARC's ICT staff and systems responded to a critical change management task that was required in unprecedented timeframes and volume. Another key achievement in 2020–21 was the uplift of the ARC's security footing to address evolving threats in cyber security. The ARC has demonstrated that it has the capability to sustain organisational capacity successfully.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES AND DEVELOPMENTS

Response to COVID-19

The ARC acknowledges the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the Australian research sector. ARC supported researchers are managing various consequences for their research activity, including financial impacts, disruptions to their workplaces and access to facilities and resources, as well as travel restrictions which have hampered fieldwork and the recruitment of postdoctoral researchers and PhD students. At a time when Australian universities are managing revenue lost after a significant decline in international students, ARC support—including award of funding for new grants and flexible management of existing grants—has been critical to many research groups. ARC-funded researchers and fellows have also played an important role in adding to the global understanding of COVID-19.

The ARC adapted quickly to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic by facilitating all Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings to be held online and providing extra support and advice to ARC assessors and College of Expert members. ARC Executives and staff have hosted webinars and attended numerous outreach meetings and forums via video conference during 2020–21 to provide advice to the sector, answer queries and to listen, learn and respond to issues affecting researchers and universities. The ARC also delayed the public consultation round for the ERA and EI Review by 6 months, at the request of universities, to accommodate pressures on research offices amidst the pandemic.

The ARC has introduced mechanisms and provided advice to the research sector to support researchers on active ARC projects and researchers planning applications for future ARC support, including:

- extensions to grant application closing dates
- extensions in commencement of grants
- extensions to reporting deadlines for ARC-funded projects
- greater flexibility and streamlined mechanisms for varying ARC-funded projects due to impacts of COVID-19
- support for early and mid-career researchers (further information is included in **Section 1.2**).

Foreign interference

In March 2021, the ARC appeared before the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security Inquiry into National Security Risks Affecting the Australian Higher Education and Research Sector, which considers the national security risks to the sector. In September 2020, the ARC reviewed its conflict of interest policy for research grant applicants to provide further assurance that publicly funded research is consistent with Australia's national interests. Ongoing engagement between government agencies and the ARC has seen new arrangements implemented, which has strengthened due diligence across all our grant application processes, administration of existing ARC projects and appointment of ARC committee members. These arrangements complement the *Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector* developed through the University Foreign Interference Taskforce.

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) audit outcomes

In 2020–21 the ARC continued to implement the following recommendations from the ANAO's performance audit of the NCGP:

1. The ARC reviews the practice of issuing NCGP guidelines annually
2. The ARC ensures that its Key Performance Indicators (now termed 'Performance Measures') for the NCGP are reliable and include efficiency
3. The ARC ensures that its monitoring and assurance activities (in particular institutional reviews) are risk based and contribute to the ARC's assurance that NCGP objectives are being achieved.

In 2020–21 the ARC completed 2 of the 3 recommendations. The third recommendation is expected to be completed by 31 December 2021.

OUTLOOK FOR 2021–22

The 2021–22 year will be busy for the ARC. The ARC will work with universities to finalise the technical details of implementing the recommendations from the ERA EI Review Advisory Committee, and with universities, government and end user stakeholders to improve the value of ERA and EI data. We will also work with universities to prepare for the upcoming ERA 2023 and EI 2024 rounds.

The ARC Centres of Excellence (CoE) commencing in 2023 opened on 1 June 2021. The assessment process will continue into 2022 with outcomes expected in the third quarter of 2022. The ARC will also continue to progress all other scheduled NCGP grant opportunities to ensure we continue to support the Australian research sector for the recovery period and beyond.

A new financial management information system will be introduced in 2021–22 which will improve and fundamentally change the way the ARC manages its finances. The system will give staff the ability to access their own financial information, enable electronic workflows/ approvals and provide a centralised repository for financial information.

The ARC will continue to work closely with the research sector and with its government counterparts to support the implementation of the *Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector*, developed by the University Foreign Interference Taskforce.

The ARC will continue to monitor the COVID-19 situation and regularly review its mechanisms to support the Australian research sector to ensure they remain adequate. The ARC will also continue to provide support to its staff and external stakeholders.

CONCLUSION

The achievements documented within this Annual Report reflect the efforts of a diverse range of national and international stakeholders during a time of great challenge and disruption.

I would like to thank our staff, who have responded flexibly and positively to the challenges of the past year, working closely with the Australian research sector to deliver our objectives.

I would also like to thank the Australian research sector for the work they do to support innovation and discovery year on year. Finally, I would like to acknowledge and thank our community of peer reviewers, who continue to provide their expertise, time, and commitment to ensure the continuity of our robust peer review process which underpins the NCGP.

I look forward to the year ahead and achieving our 2021–22 goals, which reflect the ARC's purpose—to grow knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community.

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

Australian Society, History and Culture scheme

The first grants awarded through the *Special Research Initiative for Australian Society, History and Culture* scheme were announced in October 2020, providing \$11.8 million for new research into Australia's society, history, culture, literature, art, music, politics and geography. Grants of between \$20,000 to \$100,000 per year for up to 3 years have been provided to successful applicants.

The scheme has funded 49 research projects that will look at the way in which Australians live today as well as how the past has contributed to Australian society and culture. One focus is how Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture is understood and has impacted modern Australian society. The Australian Government anticipates that this new initiative will bring a greater understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history, heritage, and the success of multiculturalism.

Research Grants Services (RGS)

The ARC commenced providing research grants administration services to other Australian Government entities for grant programs focused on the research sector. Consistent with the whole of Australian Government grants administration initiatives, this service positions the ARC as a leader in the delivery of research grant programs in Australia and provides increased efficiency and assurance for users of the service, and for grant recipients.

RGS provides a standardised research grants process through the ARC's Research Management System (RMS) which offers a flexible, robust, stable and innovative platform for administering research grants. The ARC has commenced grants services for 3 client agencies. Of these clients, 2 are managed end-to-end services for the Office of National Intelligence (ONI) and the Department of Defence (Defence) who are funding the NISDRG program. The third provides the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) with access and support to use RMS for the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) program.

The ARC will support the Grant Opportunities and the subsequent management of approved grants for the program.

POLICY ENVIRONMENT

Discovery Projects scheme evaluation

In 2020–21, the ARC completed an evaluation of the Discovery Projects scheme, which incorporated stakeholder feedback from 3,069 researchers, 24 university research offices and 3 peak bodies. The evaluation found that Discovery Projects was effectively achieving its

objectives and intended outcomes and playing a unique and important role within the broader research funding landscape. It identified a number of opportunities to support continuous improvement in the ARC's administration of the scheme. In response, the ARC is considering strategies to further strengthen its communication with stakeholders, streamline grant application and administration processes, improve facilitation of national and international collaboration, and strengthen consistency in data collection.

The Discovery Projects evaluation report, and the accompanying response, are available on the the ARC's website, www.arc.gov.au > Home > Policies & Strategies > Strategy > Evaluation > [ARC response to the Evaluation of the Discovery Projects scheme](#).

Streamlining NCGP grants administration

The streamlining of ARC grant applications and management processes is a continuous business improvement activity for the ARC to maintain an efficient system that, as far as possible, minimises the administrative burden for researchers, research offices and ARC staff. These enhancements are in line with the reforms pursued through the Streamlined Government Grants Administration (SGGA) Program.

In 2020–21, streamlining outcomes included improvements to Grant Guidelines, Grant Agreements and application forms. The ARC continued to collaborate with other agencies to ensure that whole of Government policies and practices are reflected in ARC Grant Guidelines and Grant Agreements. Updates to application forms reduced duplication, improved consistency across schemes (where appropriate) and removed some questions that were no longer required. The ARC also implemented a number of enhancements to the functionality of RMS taking into account feedback received from the research sector.

Data visualisation

In 2020–21 the ARC developed interactive data displays and other data products to improve accessibility for internal and external users. Data trends, available through data visualisations on the ARC's website, www.arc.gov.au can be explored from 2002 onwards and filtered by funding commencement year, scheme, research discipline and more. The ARC is committed to improving the way our data can be viewed and used, while upholding high standards of privacy and security.

Gender equality

Advancing gender equality in the research workforce also remains a priority for the ARC. The ARC recognises this is a particularly difficult time for the sector, with broad-reaching impacts and demands on institutions and individuals. In 2020–21, the ARC reviewed its Gender Equality Statement, which sets out the ARC's commitment to supporting gender equality in the Australian research sector. The Statement includes an overview of mechanisms available under

the NCGP to support women's participation in ARC schemes; engagement in the research sector by the ARC, and by ARC supported researchers, to support gender equality; and a range of gender data insights, analysis and reporting, including participation and success rates under the NCGP and across the sector.

In 2020–21, the ARC College of Experts included an increased gender parity, with membership increasing from 28.7% women in 2016 to 47.8% in 2021. These College members, who are leaders in their respective research disciplines, are responsible for moderating the ARC's peer review processes, and their recommendations are critical to the outcomes of our competitive grant opportunities.

The ARC will continue to work with stakeholders to encourage progress in supporting women in the research sector.

Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) 2020

On 30 June 2020, the revised ANZSRC was released by the Australian Bureau of Statistics and Stats NZ. It provides the research community with a classification system that is contemporary and reflects the changes in research practices over the past decade.

In 2020–21, the ARC has commenced implementing the revised classification into NCGP activities, using a staged approach:

- the new codes were made available in RMS researcher profiles from late 2020 to allow the researchers and research office time to update their profile from 2008 to 2020 codes
- nomination forms for the 2022 College of Experts (which opened in May 2021) included the new codes
- the first NCGP application round to be adapted to the 2020 codes will be the 2022 *Industrial Transformation Research Program* (ITRP), which opened in August 2021.

Over the coming years, the new ANZSRC classifications will assist the ARC with administering a range of programs, including NCGP, ERA and EI. The revised classification will be used in the next ERA (2023) and EI (2024) rounds.

NCGP mechanisms to support the Australian research sector during the COVID-19 pandemic

An important role of the ARC is ensuring the delivery of funding outcomes in a timely manner. The ARC has closely monitored the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic while continuing to progress NCGP grant applications and peer review processes, and to support researchers in the recovery period and beyond.

New categories added to ARC Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) Statement

The ARC acknowledges that the impacts of COVID-19 have been diverse and dependent on a variety of factors including physical location, research requirements and personal circumstances. The ARC Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) Statement includes examples of the type of interruption that can be included in applications, noting these are examples only and any interruption that has affected career opportunity can be included under ROPE. Two new categories of interruption: disaster management and recovery and limited or no access to facilities and resources – such as through workplace interruptions have been included to specifically capture interruptions arising from COVID-19. The ROPE criterion will enable all researchers, whose research has been affected, to identify interruptions relevant to their own experiences, that will be considered by assessors.

Early and mid-career researcher eligibility extensions

To assist with the impacts on early and mid-career researchers who have specific eligibility timeframes to apply for the *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award* (DECRA) and *Future Fellowships* schemes, a one-year automatic eligibility extension for all researchers in their final year of eligibility was introduced for both schemes in 2020. Researchers in their final year of eligibility for DECRA were advised that they could choose to apply in 2020 (for DECRA 2022) within the existing eligibility timeframes or in 2021 (for DECRA 2023) utilising the automatic one-year extension. Similarly, researchers in their final year of eligibility for Future Fellowships were advised that they could choose to apply in 2020 (for the *Future Fellows* scheme 2021) or utilise the automatic, one-year extension to apply in 2021 (for the *Future Fellows* scheme 2022).

Supporting peer review and selection meetings

The ARC adopted changes to its SAC meetings to ensure that the process for peer review, which is critical to identifying excellence in research applications, could continue by adjusting to a virtual format via videoconference. All selection meetings from June 2020 through to July 2021 were successfully conducted via videoconference.

Supporting researchers on active projects

To assist researchers with active projects already in receipt of ARC funding, who were affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the ARC published post award guidance, [www.arc.gov.au > Home > ARC Post Award Guidance including Major Investments: Responding to the impact of COVID-19](https://www.arc.gov.au/home/arc-post-award-guidance-including-major-investments-responding-to-the-impact-of-covid-19) material. This material was in line with Grant Agreement requirements and provided a balance between accountability for expenditure of public money and easing the burden on researchers and research offices.

The post award guidance covered streamlined mechanisms to notify some variations through the ARC's End of Year Report process, extensions to notification and reporting deadlines, other variations which would be considered due to the impact of COVID-19, and Frequently Asked Questions.

The ARC is continuing to monitor the impact of COVID-19, addressing issues as they transpire, developing contingencies and providing additional advice to the sector about post award arrangements, including for grants arising out of new selection rounds.

NATIONAL RESEARCH ASSESSMENT

ERA EI Review

In 2021, the ARC completed its review of ERA and EI. This review ensures the assessments respond to the future needs of the university sector, are streamlined and continue to reflect world's best practice. It will also shape the next assessment rounds in 2023 (ERA) and 2024 (EI). The ARC accepted all recommendations from the review and on 16 June 2021 published the *ERA EI Review Final Report* and the *ERA and EI Action Plan*.

PEOPLE

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the agility and flexibility of the ARC and its people. All employees worked from home for an extended period, and due to a robust ICT infrastructure, strong communication and clear guidelines and policies, this proved seamless. As a result of this, more staff have taken up the opportunity to incorporate working from home as part of their flexible working arrangements.

The ARC currently has 143 staff, 17% of whom are working part time, 62% regularly working from home, 5% utilising compressed hours, and 4% who have been on non-maternity leave without pay.

In the 2020 Australian Public Service (APS) census, 92% of staff reported that they believed they had the appropriate skills, capabilities and knowledge to perform well.

ARC MEDIA ANNOUNCEMENTS

July 2020

Minister Tehan announced funding of:

- \$25 million for 5 new *ARC Industrial Transformation Research Hubs*
- \$44.2 million for 14 *ARC Australian Laureate Fellowships* for 2020, including the *ARC Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship* and *Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship*
- \$24 million for 5 new *ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centres*
- \$90.5 million to support 100 *ARC Future Fellowships* for 2020.

October 2020

Minister Tehan announced a change to ARC research funding to direct a greater portion of funds to projects funded through the schemes of the ARC Linkage Program. Minister Tehan announced funding of \$11.8 million to support 49 new projects under the 2020 *Special Research Initiative for Australian Society, History and Culture*.

The ARC congratulated Australian researchers awarded the 2020 Prime Minister's Prizes for Science, whose research had been supported by the funding schemes of the ARC. Recipients included the research team at the *ARC Centre of Excellence for Gravitational Wave Discovery* who took out the overall Prime Minister's Prize for Science for their role in the important discovery of gravitational waves in 2015.

November 2020

Minister Tehan announced \$445,688 to support a DECRA project led by a University of Melbourne researcher at the *ARC Centre of Excellence for Dark Matter Particle Physics*.

Minister Tehan announced funding of:

- \$7.1 million for 9 new research projects through the *Discovery Indigenous* scheme
- \$84 million for 200 projects under the DECRA scheme
- \$255 million for 591 projects under the *Discovery Projects* scheme
- \$26.4 million for 60 projects under the *Linkage Projects* scheme.

December 2020

The ARC welcomed the approval by the Australian Government of ARC grants funding including:

- \$38.8 million for 47 *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)* projects
- \$419,000 to support one project under the *Linkage Projects* scheme
- \$4.8 million for 12 projects under the *Discovery Projects* scheme.

March 2021

Minister Alan Tudge announced funding of \$29.5 million to support 65 projects under the *Linkage Projects* scheme.

May 2021

The ARC welcomed the launch of the *ARC Training Centre in Data Analytics for Resources and Environments (DARE)* which will receive \$3.9 million in funding over the next 5 years.

June 2021

The ARC announced the release of the *ERA EI Review Final Report*.

PART 02

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL OVERVIEW

2.1	Role and functions	17
2.2	Organisational structure	19
2.3	Performance framework	21

LEGISLATION

The ARC was established under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act). The ARC Act provides detail in relation to:

- the functions of the ARC
- the establishment of designated committees by the responsible Minister
- the CEO and ARC staff
- reporting requirements
- the funding of research, including the funding cap, funding assistance, funding rules and the ARC research endowment fund.

The funding caps in the ARC Act are regularly updated through an amendment bill, to allow continued funding under the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). The ARC Act was last amended in June 2021.

ROLE AND FUNCTIONS

The ARC administers the NCGP, assesses the quality, engagement and impact of research, and advises the Australian Government on research matters.

FUNDING THE HIGHEST QUALITY RESEARCH

Through the NCGP, the ARC supports excellent fundamental and applied research and research training across the science, technology, engineering and mathematics disciplines, as well as the humanities, arts and social science disciplines. Funding under the NCGP is awarded based on competitive peer review processes involving Australian and international assessors.

The NCGP comprises 13 schemes under 2 programs: the Discovery Program and the Linkage Program. Through the Discovery Program, the ARC aims to build Australia's research capacity by supporting excellent, internationally competitive research projects, fellowships and awards. Through the Linkage Program, the ARC aims to build Australia's research and innovation capacity by supporting excellent, internationally competitive research projects, infrastructure, hubs and centres that involve collaboration among researchers within and beyond the research sector.

ASSESSING THE QUALITY, ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT OF RESEARCH

The ARC administers 2 evaluation frameworks to assess the quality, engagement and impact of research.

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) provides a comprehensive assessment of the quality of research produced by Australian universities against international benchmarks. The ARC has conducted 4 ERA evaluations in 2010, 2012, 2015 and 2018.

The ARC is also responsible for administering the Engagement and Impact (EI) assessment of university research. EI assesses the engagement of researchers with research end-users and shows how universities are translating their research into economic, environmental, social, cultural and other impacts. The ARC conducted the inaugural EI assessment in 2018.

A review of the ERA and EI programs was undertaken during 2020–21 to inform the next ERA evaluation in 2023 and EI assessment in 2024. The review findings were published on the ARC website in the *ERA EI Review Final Report*, which details 22 recommendations to improve the programs, and the *ERA and EI Action Plan*, which details the ARC's plan to implement changes for future rounds of ERA and EI.

PROVIDING ADVICE ON RESEARCH MATTERS

The ARC provides advice to the responsible Minister on matters related to the portfolio, including research and research training, research partnerships, and the quality, engagement and impact of research in Australia.

RESOURCES

In 2020–21 the ARC:

- managed a total estimated budget of \$834.6 million, of which approximately \$806.2 million was provided to support research through the NCGP
- had an average staffing level of 136 employees.

STAKEHOLDERS

The ARC's key stakeholders are the Australian Government, Australian universities, research partner organisations, industry, not-for-profit entities, publicly funded research agencies, research peak bodies, the global research sector and Australian taxpayers.

The ARC maintains close relationships with a range of Australian Government agencies to support the national research and innovation system. The agency collaborates with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) on matters relating to the joint administration of the Australian Research Integrity Committee and the implementation of the Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research. The ARC and the NHMRC also meet regularly to discuss major policy issues. The ARC funds research across all disciplines (with the exception of clinical and pre-clinical health and medical research), while the NHMRC provides funding for all areas of research relevant to human health and medicine.

The ARC works collaboratively with its portfolio agency, the Department of Education, Skills and Employment as well as the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources. Areas of common interest include international engagement, and mechanisms of government support for building Australia's research capacity, for example, through funding infrastructure, research training and collaboration.

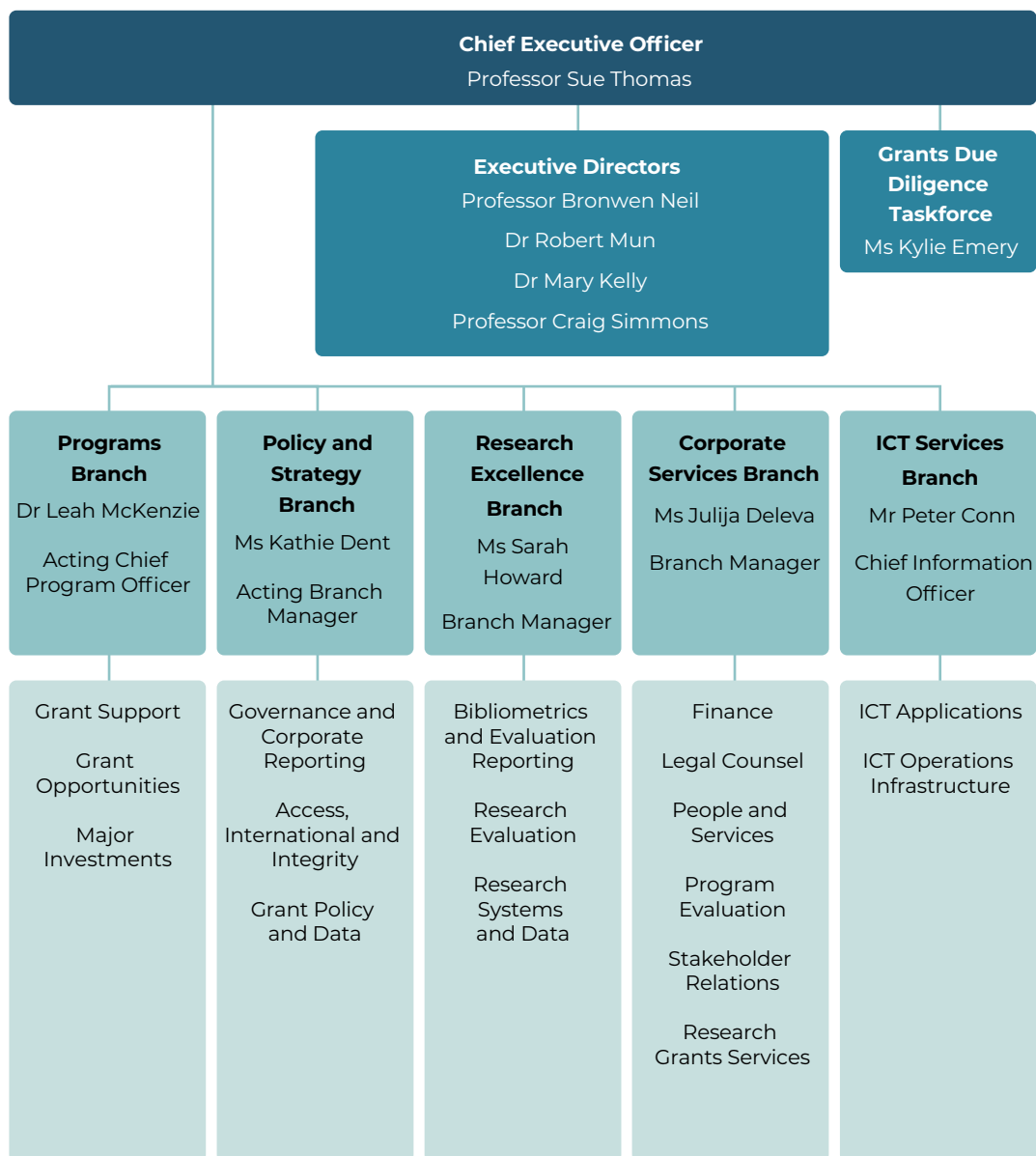
FIGURE 1: Structure of the Australian Research Council, June 2021

TABLE 1: Details of the Accountable Authority during the reporting period 2020–21

		Period as the accountable authority or member within the reporting period	
Name	Position title/Position held	Date of commencement	Date of cessation
Professor Sue Thomas	Chief Executive Officer	3-Jul-17	–

The ARC's performance measurement framework is consistent with the requirements of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and the Enhanced Commonwealth Performance Framework. The ARC's performance measurement framework ensures a clear line of sight between the objectives, resources and criteria identified within the agency's Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) and corporate plan, and the performance outcomes documented by the annual report.

Together, these 3 documents provide the ARC's complete performance story. In addition to the ARC's published performance information, the agency's performance measurement framework is supported by internal planning, monitoring and reporting processes.

PORTFOLIO BUDGET STATEMENTS

The ARC had one outcome and 3 programs in its 2020–21 PBS (**Figure 2**).

FIGURE 2: ARC outcome and programs

Outcome 1		
Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice.		
Program 1.1	Program 1.2	Program 1.3
Discovery – research and research training	Linkage – cross-sector research partnerships	Excellence in Research for Australia
Administered expenses \$484.5m	Administered expenses \$326.5m	Administered expenses \$3.1m
Departmental		
ARC Departmental		
Departmental expenses \$24.3m		

Note: Budgeted expenses are as published in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2020–21 Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio.

CORPORATE PLAN

The ARC Corporate Plan 2020–21 states that the agency's purpose is:

To grow knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community by funding the highest quality research, assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research and providing advice on research matters.

ANNUAL PERFORMANCE STATEMENT

The Annual Performance Statement in **Section 3.1** documents the ARC's achievements against its purpose in the corporate plan, and outcome and programs in the PBS.

PART 03

REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

3.1 Annual Performance Statement	25
3.2 Financial performance	69

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY

I, as the accountable authority of the Australian Research Council (ARC), present the 2020–21 annual performance statements of the ARC, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*. In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity in the reporting period and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act.



Professor Sue Thomas
Chief Executive Officer
16 September 2021

PURPOSE

The ARC's purpose is to grow knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community by funding the highest quality research, assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research, and providing advice on research matters.

A statement is provided for each of the programs that support the ARC's purpose, as follows:

National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) – Funding Excellent Basic and Applied Research and Research Training

- Program 1.1 – Discovery – Research and Research Training
- Program 1.2 – Linkage – Cross Sector Research Partnerships

Assessing the Quality, Engagement and Impact of Research

- Program 1.3 – Excellence in Research for Australia

The ARC's programs are directed towards growing knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community. The following statement outlines the ARC's performance within a single financial year, reflecting a cross-sectional snapshot of the effectiveness of the agency in achieving its purpose, noting that the outcomes and benefits from research are often realised over a longer-term.

To further highlight the achievements of the ARC in meeting its purpose, case studies from the ARC's *Making a difference – Outcomes from ARC supported research 2020–21* booklet have been included at the end of this section. These case studies showcase the new knowledge and benefits being generated by ARC-funded research. They have been chosen to demonstrate how ARC-funded research is delivering economic, environmental, social, health and/or cultural outcomes to Australia.

Making a difference can be accessed via the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > News > Publications > [Making a difference](#). Case studies from the *Making a difference* booklet are drawn from the ARC's Research Highlights stories, which are published regularly on the ARC's website and social media, www.arc.gov.au > News > Media > [Research Highlights](#).

APPROACH

For each program, the 2020–21 annual performance statement includes:

- a description of the program
- a description of the performance measures
- a description of performance against each performance measure including a description of why it is important, the result(s), an analysis of the result(s) and additional context if appropriate
- a performance summary or overall analysis of performance against the program.

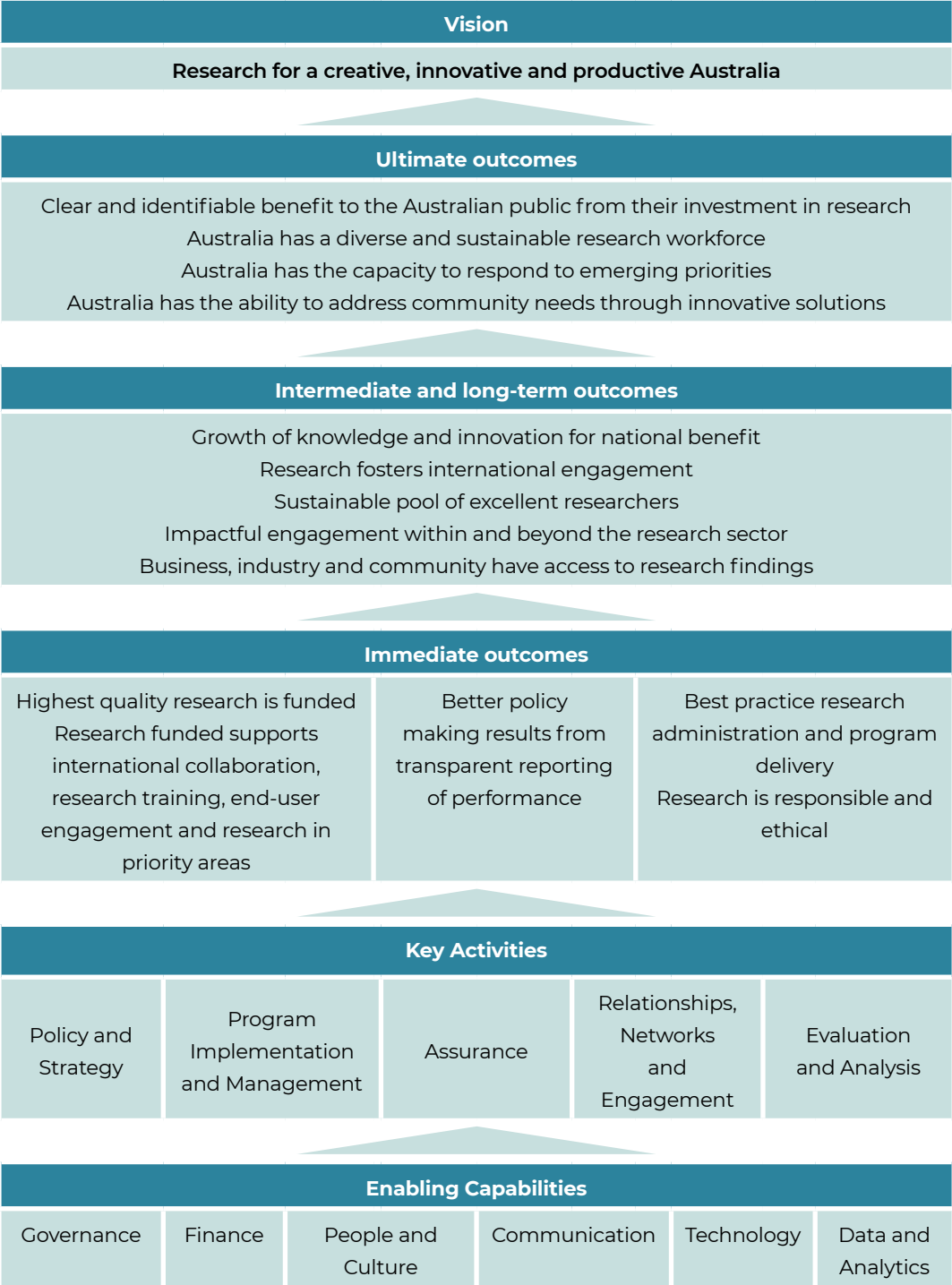
The annual performance statement reports against the full set of performance measures outlined in the ARC's Portfolio Budgets Statements (PBS) for 2020–21 which are available on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > Home > About the Australian Research Council > [Budget](#), and the *ARC Corporate Plan 2020–21*. **Figure 3** shows the relationships between the PBS, our corporate plan and our annual performance statements.

FIGURE 3: Relationships between the ARC PBS, corporate plan and annual performance statement

Document	Element	Details		
Portfolio Budget Statements	Outcome	Outcome 1 Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice.		
	Programs	Program 1.1 Discovery	Program 1.2 Linkage	Program 1.3 Excellence in Research for Australia
		ARC Departmental		
<div></div>				
Corporate Plan	Purpose	Purpose To grow knowledge and innovation for the benefit of the Australian community by funding the highest quality research, assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research and providing advice on research matters.		
	Programs	NCGP – Funding Excellent Basic and Applied Research and Research Training		Assessing the Quality, Engagement and Impact of Research
		Program 1.1 Discovery – Research and Research Training	Program 1.2 Linkage – Cross Sector Research Partnerships	Program 1.3 Excellence in Research for Australia
<div></div>				
Annual Performance Statement	Programs	NCGP – Funding Excellent Basic and Applied Research and Research Training		Assessing the Quality, Engagement and Impact of Research
		Program 1.1 Discovery – Research and Research Training	Program 1.2 Linkage – Cross Sector Research Partnerships	Program 1.3 Excellence in Research for Australia

The broad level logic model underpinning the ARC's performance framework is outlined in **Figure 4**. A report on the ARC's performance against the full set of performance measures is provided on pages 33–40 for Program 1.1; 40–47 for Program 1.2; and pages 51–58 for Program 1.3.

FIGURE 4: Performance measurement framework (ARC Corporate Plan 2020–21, page 15)



SUMMARY OF PERFORMANCE

The ARC has 18 performance measures, of which 15 were reportable in 2020–21 and the remaining 3 measures under Program 1.3 were not applicable for the 2020–21 reporting period. In 2020–21, the ARC achieved 13 and substantially achieved one of the 15 reportable performance measures. The remaining measure was partially achieved. A summary of these results is provided in **Table 2** below.

TABLE 2: Summary of results against performance measures

Performance Measures	Result
NCGP – Funding Excellent Basic and Applied Research and Research Training	
Program 1.1 Discovery – Research and Research Training	
Program 1.2 Linkage – Cross Sector Research Partnerships	
ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable	
1.1 NCGP applications and assessment processes are conducted in a timely manner	Achieved
1.2 ARC meets Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRG) requirements to publish information about grant opportunities and grant awards	Achieved
1.3 ARC manages equitable expert assessment of NCGP applications	Achieved
1.4 ARC reviews all completed final grant reports in a timely manner	Partially Achieved
1.5 ARC reviews all submitted End of Year Reports, Progress/Annual Reports in a timely manner	Substantially Achieved
1.6 ARC manages NCGP application and assessment processes fairly and in accordance with Grant Guidelines	Achieved
1.7 Proportion of Linkage Program funding to support industrial research training under the <i>Industrial Transformation Training Centres</i> (ITTC) scheme	Achieved
ARC supports collaboration to enable high quality research	
1.8 Proportion of ARC-funded research projects that involve international collaboration	Achieved
1.9 Maintain or increase the level of co-funding from partner organisations involved in ARC funded research (<i>Linkage Projects</i> scheme)	Achieved

Performance Measures	Result
1.10 Proportion of participating organisations satisfied with the research partnerships supported through the Linkage Program (<i>Linkage Projects</i> scheme)	Achieved
1.11 Proportion of ARC-funded research projects that indicate their research will involve research in one of the Australian Government's National Science and Research Priority areas	Achieved
Assessing the Quality, Engagement and Impact of Research Program 1.3 Excellence in Research for Australia	
ERA provides assurance of the quality of research in Australia	
2.1 ERA methodology is reviewed	Achieved
2.2 Review outcomes are implemented through revised methodology, where required	n/a
2.3 Research quality of participating universities is assessed and reported on	n/a
2.4 Use of ERA program data to assist in the development of Australian Government policies	Achieved
ERA encourages excellent, internationally competitive research	
2.5 Use of ERA program data to inform the strategic planning of Australian universities	Achieved
The EI Assessment encourages impactful engagement within and beyond the research sector	
2.6 EI assessment methodology reviewed	Achieved
2.7 Review outcomes are implemented through revised methodology, where required	n/a

NCGP – FUNDING EXCELLENT BASIC AND APPLIED RESEARCH AND RESEARCH TRAINING

Description

The ARC administers the NCGP, which comprises Program 1.1 – Discovery and Program 1.2 – Linkage. Each program funds a range of complementary schemes that provide funding for basic and applied research, research training, research collaboration and infrastructure. Through the grants and assessment process, the ARC encourages workforce diversity that is reflective of Australian society by supporting the highest calibre researchers, regardless of gender, ethnicity or career stage.

In 2020–21, the ARC administered the following schemes (see **Appendix 1** for a description):

- **Discovery Program:** Australian Laureate Fellowships (FL); Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA); Discovery Indigenous (IN); Discovery Projects (DP); and Future Fellowships (FT)
- **Linkage Program:** ARC Centres of Excellence (CoE); Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) (which includes Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH) and Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC)); Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF); Linkage Projects (LP); Special Research Initiatives (SRI); and Supporting Responses to Commonwealth Science Council Priorities (CS).

By supporting excellent internationally competitive research through NCGP funding schemes, the ARC aims to deliver outcomes of national benefit and to build Australia's research capacity.

Deliverables

The key deliverables for Program 1.1 – Discovery, as identified in the PBS 2020–21 (page 149), include the following main activities:

- administering the Discovery funding schemes which provide funding to eligible administering organisations for excellent, internationally competitive research projects, fellowships and awards
- informing policy on research and research training.

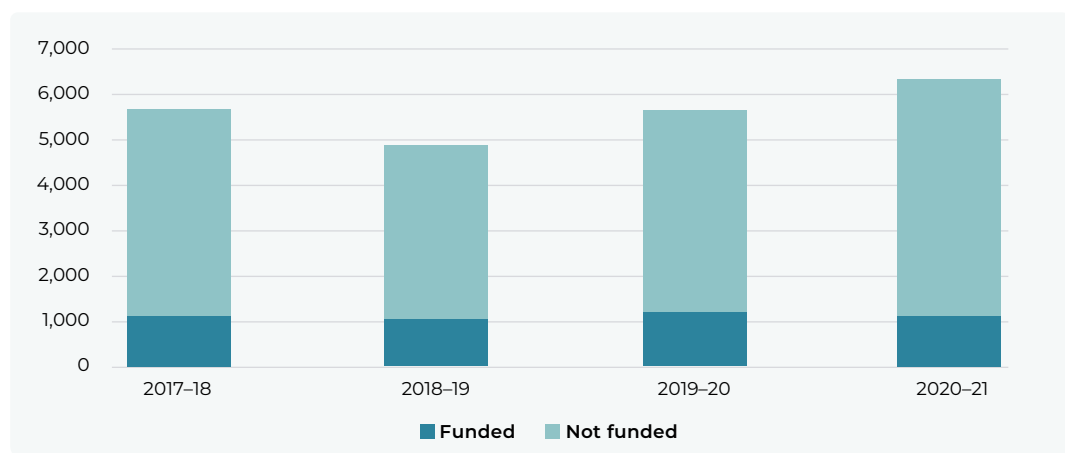
The key deliverables for Program 1.2 – Linkage, as identified in the PBS 2020–21 (page 151), include the following activities:

- administering the Linkage funding schemes which provide funding to eligible administering organisations for excellent, internationally competitive research projects, infrastructure, hubs and centres
- informing policy on cross sector research partnerships.

In 2020–21 the ARC:

- completed selection processes that considered 6,344 applications for NCGP funding and awarded 1,153 grants for research projects (**Figure 5**), involving 2,879 researchers (Chief Investigators), worth \$603.6 million (where outcomes were finalised in the reporting period)
- administered 5,603 new and ongoing grants under the NCGP, providing \$776.4 million to administering organisations (based on projects as at the end of the reporting period).

FIGURE 5: Applications received and projects funded, 2017–18 to 2020–21⁽¹⁾



(1) calculated where application outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurred) during the reporting period.

A breakdown of NCGP funding by scheme round is included at **Appendix 2**.

Performance

Key objectives of the NCGP in achieving the *ARC Corporate Plan 2020–21* (pages 17–19) performance measures relate to:

- supporting the sustainability of Australia’s research workforce
- an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable
- supporting collaboration to enable high quality research
- growing Australia’s research knowledge and innovation.

Explanatory notes

- Some measures relate to matters which are outside the ARC’s influence, potentially impacting the agency’s ability to achieve the targets identified. For instance, economic conditions may impact both the capacity of partner organisations to financially contribute to research projects, as well as the realisation of research benefits.
- Figures used in **Part 3.1** to assess performance outcomes reflect data collected on the basis of grants awarded, and do not directly correspond to financial statement information provided elsewhere in this report.

Data notes

- In 2020–21, the ARC introduced 6 new performance measures and refined the methodology and data collection across all performance measures to ensure the performance information is relevant, reliable and complete. Therefore, in some cases results for previous years presented within this report differ to those recorded in the Annual Report 2019–20.
- The 2020–21 reporting period is based on the financial year (1 July–30 June), inclusive of start and end dates.

- All data results have been rounded to one decimal place for consistency.
- The specific methodologies for calculating the results for each performance measure are denoted with each measure.
- The following scheme rounds were finalised (i.e. a ministerial decision occurred) in 2020–21:
 - Discovery Program: DECRA 2021, IN 2021, DP 2021, FL 2021 and FT 2020
 - Linkage Program: LIEF 2021, LP 2020 rounds 1 and 2 and SRI 2020 round 2.
- When assessing the results, the ARC has identified that a measure is achieved where the target is met or exceeded; substantially achieved where the target is nearly met (e.g. within 10% of the target); partially achieved where the target is mostly met (e.g. within 30% of the target); or not achieved where the measure has not been met or is greater than 30% from the target.

Performance measures

The ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable

Why is this important?

As a government entity, the ARC must maintain efficient processes that meet legislative and policy requirements and follow best practice principles. The ARC has a responsibility to make efficient use of Commonwealth funds by funding the highest quality research through the NCGP. This is achieved by maintaining a robust and competitive peer review process.

Peer review plays a critical role in the assessment of NCGP applications to ensure that the highest-quality basic and applied research and research training is funded. In 2020–21, over 7,000 assessors contributed more than 20,000 peer assessments.

The ARC manages NCGP application and assessment processes fairly and transparently, in accordance with Grant Guidelines (formerly known as Funding Rules) and works to cultivate a system-wide culture of research integrity. The Grant Guidelines for the various ARC funding schemes make provision for an appeals process, whereby appeals will be considered against administrative process issues. The appeals process is designed to ensure that the applicant has been treated fairly and consistently in the context of the selection procedures.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable – as indicated by:

Performance Measure 1.1 **NCGP applications and assessment processes are conducted in a timely manner**

Metric/Outcome Immediate
Recommendations are made to the Minister within 6 months of scheme round closing dates for *Linkage Projects*, and within 8 months for all other schemes

Methodology Quantitative

- Includes all applications where outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurs) within the specified reporting period.
- Length of process measured from scheme round application closing date to date relevant funding outcome brief is lodged with the Minister.

Data Source Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database

Measure Source CP 2020–21 page 17, PBS 2020–21 pages 149

Target 100%

Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	100% (100% for Linkage Projects; 100% for all other schemes) Achieved

(1) This performance measure was expanded in the Corporate Plan for 2020–21 to include all NCGP applications and assessment processes across the Discovery Program and Linkage Program. Previously only the length of the Linkage Projects scheme application and assessment processes was reported. Data has not been included for the previous 3 reporting periods.

Analysis of results

The timeliness of scheme assessment processes is considered to be an indication of the efficiency of the process and the ease with which researchers and partner organisations can access support.

The ARC has met Performance Measure 1.1. In 2020–21, 100% of recommendations were made by the ARC to the Minister for Education and Youth within 6 months of scheme round closing dates for the *Linkage Project* scheme (LP 2020 rounds 1 and 2) and within 8 months for all other schemes (DECRA 2021, DP 2021, FL 2021, FT 2020, IN 2021, LIEF 2021, SRI 2020 round 2).

The ARC has continued to meet this performance measure, demonstrating the strength of its assessment processes and a continued focus on processing NCGP applications in a timely manner.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.2	ARC meets Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines (CGRG) requirements to publish information about grant opportunities and grant awards			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate ARC publishes all NCGP grant opportunities and grant awards on GrantConnect			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all grant opportunities and awards for schemes where the application outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurs) within the specified reporting period. Includes all ARC funding offers where the ARC acceptance date is within the specified reporting period. Grant opportunities are to be published on GrantConnect before the scheme round opens. Grant awards are published on GrantConnect within 21 days of a grant agreement taking effect (i.e. acceptance of a grant funding offer by both the Administering Organisation and ARC). 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NGCP administrative database and GrantConnect			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 17, PBS 2020–21 page 149			
Target	100%			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	100% Achieved

(1) As this is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period, data has not been included for the previous 3 reporting periods.

Analysis of results

The ARC must meet CGRG key legislative and policy requirements to ensure that its grants administration processes follow best practice principles. The Australian Government mandates that the ARC will publish all information about its grant opportunities and grant awards to GrantConnect (the Australian Government’s whole-of-government grants information system).

The ARC has achieved Performance Measure 1.2. In 2020–21, the ARC met CGRG requirements by publishing 100% of grant opportunities to GrantConnect before the scheme rounds opened.

One hundred per cent of grant awards were also published to GrantConnect within 21 days of applicable grant agreements taking effect.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.3	ARC manages equitable expert assessment of NCGP applications			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate Minimum of 2 detailed assessments are received per application across all NCGP schemes with the exception of SRIs			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applies to all NCGP schemes (excluding SRIs due to the nature of the assessment process for these grants). • Includes all applications where outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurs) within the specified reporting period. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 17, PBS 2020–21 page 149			
Target	100%			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	100% Achieved

(1) This is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period. Data has not been included for the previous 3 reporting periods.

Analysis of results

Peer review plays a pivotal role in the NCGP whereby the ARC seeks to identify and support high quality and innovative research. The core business of peer review relies on assessors to provide rigorous assessments of applications submitted to the ARC that are within their expertise. Over 7,000 volunteer assessors contribute to ARC peer review processes, in addition to those researchers supported by the ARC and who are obligated to participate.

Of the 5,652 applications received by the ARC in 2020–21 across all NCGP schemes (excluding SRIs), 5,651 had received at least 2 detailed assessments (rounded to 100%). The only scheme that did not meet the target was the LP 2020 round 2 scheme (one application did not have at least 2 detailed assessments).

The ARC achieved Performance Measure 1.3, which demonstrates the rigour of the ARC’s assessment processes.

Additional context

During the assessment period the ARC monitored and re-assigned applications to detailed assessors to maximise the opportunities for securing a minimum of 2 assessments per application. During this reporting period, the ARC made a total of 38,989 assignments to detailed assessors. Where assessments are rejected or not undertaken, the ARC undertakes a range of work to reassign assessments and follow up on assessors prior to the closing date for detailed assessments. However, as the ARC is relying on external individuals, it is not always guaranteed that an application will end up receiving a minimum of 2 assessments.

Additionally, the COVID-19 pandemic has created unique challenges to the research sector, including the diversion of resources, reduced workforce, uncertainty, and a changing environment. Despite these challenges, the ARC peer review process has remained rigorous and robust. As a contingency, the ARC has implemented mechanisms to ensure that if an application receives less than 2 assessments it is not disadvantaged.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.4	ARC reviews all completed final grant reports in a timely manner			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate Final reports are reviewed within 3 months (90 days)			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all final reports approved by the ARC within the specified reporting period. Review timing calculated from latest date of submission of the final report to the ARC. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 17, PBS 2020–21 pages 149			
Target	100%			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	85.3% Partially achieved

(1) This is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period. Data has not been included for the previous 3 reporting periods.

Analysis of results

The timeliness of post award compliance activities for the NCGP is considered to be an indication of the efficiency of the process and the ease with which researchers and partner organisations can access support from the ARC. The ARC performs a broad range of assurance and compliance activities to monitor grant recipients' compliance with their NCGP Grant

Agreement obligations. These include institutional reviews; end of year and final reports; mid-term and ad-hoc reviews; and assessments of the many variations to the grant agreement requested by Administering Organisations.

In accordance with NCGP Grant Agreements, final reports must be submitted by the Administering Organisation to the ARC within 12 months of the completion of an ARC-funded project, unless otherwise approved by the ARC. In 2020–21, 1,156 final reports were submitted to the ARC. Of these, 986 were reviewed within 3 months (85.3%). This result is lower than what the ARC had aimed to achieve for 2020–21 because ARC support was focused on addressing the immediate impacts of COVID-19 on active projects (including queries, variations and requests for extensions to reporting timelines), ahead of reviewing outcomes of successfully completed projects.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.5	ARC reviews all submitted End of Year Reports, Progress/Annual Reports in a timely manner			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate Reports are reviewed within 3 months (90 days)			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all application reports approved within the specified reporting period. Review period commences from each End of Year Report or progress report instance of submission to ARC. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database and from Major Investments			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 17, PBS 2020–21 page 149			
Target	100%			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	97.1% Substantially achieved

(1) This is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period. Data has not been included for the previous 3 reporting periods.

Analysis of results

In total, the ARC received 7,072 End of Year Reports and Partner Organisation Agreed Contribution Reports in the 2020–21 reporting period. Of these, the ARC processed 6,867 within 90 days (97.1%).

Annual Reports and Progress reports for the ARC's Major Investments schemes (Centres, SRI, ITRH and ITTC) recorded an 100% result for the reporting period, having received and reviewed 104 reports. In total, the ARC processed 6,971 reports within 90 days out of 7,176 submitted across all schemes (97.1%).

While this does not meet the ARC's target of 100%, the ARC views this as a very good result, acknowledging the significant impacts of COVID-19 on the ARC and the research sector during this period, and is a reflection of the continual improvements made to the efficiency of ARC's administrative processes.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is transparent, fair and equitable – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.6	ARC manages NCGP application and assessment processes fairly and in accordance with Grant Guidelines			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate The number of upheld appeals against administrative processes is very low compared to applications submitted			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of appeals upheld in the specified reporting period against all applications where the appeals decision was made in the specified reporting period. Data collected on the number of appeals and number of appeals upheld. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 17, PBS 2020–21 page 150			
Target	<1%			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	0.02% Achieved

(1) This is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period. Data has not been included for the previous 3 reporting periods.

Analysis of results

The ARC has achieved Performance Measure 1.6. During 2020–21, one appeal against the ARC's NCGP administrative processes was upheld out of 20 appeals considered during the reporting period. This is an indication of the vigorous peer review process employed across the NCGP, when compared to the total number of applications the ARC administers each year.

Additional context

The Grant Guidelines for the various ARC funding schemes make provision for an appeals process, whereby appeals will be considered against administrative process issues. The appeals process is designed to ensure that the applicant has been treated fairly and consistently in the context of the selection procedures. The ARC will only consider appeals against administrative process issues and not against committee decisions, assessor ratings and comments, or ministerial decisions.

The ARC appoints an Appeals Committee to consider appeals and make recommendations to the ARC's CEO as to whether there has been any administrative error relating to the selection process. Based on this advice the ARC CEO determines whether an appeal should be upheld or dismissed.

ARC has an efficient competitive process which is fair and equitable – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.7	Proportion of Linkage Program funding to support industrial research training under the <i>Industrial Transformation Training Centres</i> (ITTC) scheme			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate, intermediate The percentage of Linkage Program funding dedicated to ITTC grants			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Total funding for new and ongoing funding for ITTC scheme to the total funding allocated for the Linkage Program within the reporting period. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from ARC Data Warehouse			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 18, PBS 2020–21 page 150			
Target	Maintain three-year rolling average of over 5%			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Yearly average	8.1%	11.5%	11.2%	9.5% [10% three-year rolling average] Achieved

Analysis of results

The ARC has achieved Performance Measure 1.7. In the 2020–21 reporting period, 9.5% of Linkage Program funding (new and ongoing) was allocated to the ITTC scheme. The proportion of ITTC funding allocated under the Linkage Program has been maintained at a three-year rolling average of 10%, which is greater than the target of over 5%. Under the ITTC scheme,

the number of projects funded are dependent on the total funding available, the number of applications received and the quality of those applications.

The ARC conducted a range of outreach and engagement activities with research and innovation sector stakeholders to support applications for the ITRP in 2020–21.

Additional context

The objective of the Linkage Program is to deliver outcomes of benefit to Australia and build Australia's research and innovation capacity through support for research training and career opportunities that enable Australian and international researchers and research students to work with industry and other end-users. The ITTC scheme, funded as part of the ITRP, fosters opportunities for Higher Degree by research candidates and postdoctoral fellows to pursue training in industrial priority areas identified by the ARC. These priorities reflect the 6 high-growth sectors established under the Industry Growth Centers Initiative.

ARC supports collaboration to enable high quality research

Why is this important?

Research is a global activity with researchers seeking access to the best partners and facilities worldwide. The ARC's aim in supporting international research collaboration is to maximise Australia's contribution to, and benefits from, international research collaborations, partnerships, developments and policy.

The Linkage Program promotes national and international research partnerships between researchers and business, industry, community organisations and other publicly funded research agencies. By supporting the development of partnerships, the ARC encourages transfer of skills, knowledge and ideas as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

ARC supports collaboration to enable high quality research – as indicated by:

Performance Measure 1.8	Proportion of ARC-funded research projects that involved international collaboration			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate The number of projects which involved international collaboration as reported in final reports			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all final reports approved within the reporting period. The number of funded projects indicating actual international collaboration divided by the total number of projects funded. Data collected by scheme round. Data based on collaboration with nominated country/countries as per final reports. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database final reports			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 18, PBS 2020–21 pages 151–152			
Target	70%			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	78.7% Achieved

(1) Previously the ARC has reported on international collaboration using a different methodology. The measure has been changed so that the results are now calculated based on information reported in Final Reports on international collaboration that has taken place.

Analysis of results

The ARC has achieved Performance Measure 1.8. In 2020–21 researchers reported that international collaboration continues to be a significant element of research funded by the NCGP, with an overall result of 78.7% of submitted final reports (across all NCGP schemes) indicating projects had involved international collaboration.

The ARC has also considered the results at a program level. Of 897 final reports approved for the projects funded under the schemes of the Discovery Program during the reporting period, 739 involved international collaboration (82.4%). Of 259 final reports approved for projects funded under schemes of the Linkage Program, 171 involved international collaboration (66%). The lower levels of international collaboration in the Linkage Program may indicate that certain schemes, including *Linkage Projects*, still have a greater focus on Australian rather than international outcomes.

Overall, this result demonstrates strong international outreach in research.

Additional context

In supporting international collaboration, the ARC seeks to build the capacity of Australia's research workforce by facilitating engagement with outstanding researchers overseas, as well as drawing on best practice and research developments internationally. These opportunities strengthen Australia's research capacity while also maintaining and expanding upon Australia's position as a world leader in research. NCGP funding schemes use a variety of mechanisms to support international research collaboration.

The ARC provides an in-depth analysis of funded projects that intend to involve international collaboration through its trend visualisation published on the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au > *ARC Grants > Grants Dataset > Trend Visualisations > International Collaboration*.

ARC supports collaboration to enable high quality research – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.9	Maintain or increase the level of co-funding from partner organisations involved in ARC funded research (<i>Linkage Projects</i> scheme)			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate outcome at time grant is awarded			
Methodology	<div>Quantitative</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Includes all <i>Linkage Projects</i> applications where outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurred) within the specified reporting period.Takes into account total contributed (cash and in-kind) by partner organisations and total ARC funding.			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 18, PBS 2020–21 pages 151–152			
Target	≥ \$1 for every ARC dollar			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	\$1.97	\$1.73	\$1.62	\$1.49 Achieved

Analysis of results

A partner organisation's commitment of funding and other resources to a research project indicates an expectation of a return from that investment. Under the *Linkage Projects* scheme, the combined cash and in-kind contributions pledged by partner organisations are required to match, at least, the funding sought from the ARC. In 2020–21 this requirement was exceeded with every ARC dollar attracting \$1.49 from partner organisations.

While this is a positive result, there is a downward trend from previous years, which may be a reflection of broader economic circumstances for partner organisations. Overall, the number of partner organisations participating in grants has dropped compared to previous years meaning that there are fewer potential contributions that can be made. Existing partner organisations have also been found to be more willing to contribute money to ARC funded research compared to newer ones. The ARC will continue to monitor this measure closely in the years to come.

Additional context

The Linkage Program comprises a range of schemes aimed at building collaborative research partnerships between researchers in universities and other organisations. These schemes are targeted at different elements of end-user engagement:

- the LP scheme aims to support innovation at all levels, involving end-users from government, not-for-profit organisations and both domestic and international industry
- the ITRP aims to support the development of solutions for industry, and train future researchers, through partnerships between universities and industry in identified industrial transformation priority areas
- the CoE scheme aims to build linkages across all sectors including a strong international focus
- the LIEF scheme aims to support collaborative use of infrastructure, primarily between universities, but also involving partner organisations from outside the sector where appropriate.

ARC supports collaboration to enable high quality research – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.10	Proportion of participating organisations satisfied with the research partnerships supported through the Linkage Program (<i>Linkage Projects</i> scheme)			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate outcome at time grant is awarded			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all <i>Linkage Project</i> final reports approved within the specified reporting period. The number of partner organisations who found the experience beneficial or very beneficial as a proportion of total responses received from partner organisations. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NGCP administrative database final reports.			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 19, PBS 2020–21 pages 151–152			
Target	Maintain; with baseline based on four-year rolling average			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Yearly result	90.4%	84.7%	90.6%	91.9% [Four-year rolling average of 89.4%] Achieved

Analysis of results

A majority of partners (91.9%) that provided feedback on final reports in the 2020–21 reporting period found that the collaborative research project had been either ‘very beneficial’ or ‘beneficial’ to their organisation. The ARC has been able to maintain a four-year rolling average of 89.4% and has therefore achieved Performance Measure 1.10.

This is an encouraging result indicating the potential for ongoing collaborations and research outcomes arising from these ARC supported research partnerships.

ARC funding grows Australia's research knowledge and innovation

Why is this important?

Through the identification of priority areas, the Australian Government aims to focus research on areas that address challenges facing Australia. The ARC contributes to this aim by funding research in priority areas under the NCGP.

ARC funding grows Australia's research knowledge and innovation – as indicated by:				
Performance Measure 1.11	Proportion of ARC-funded research projects that indicate their research will involve research in one of the Australian Government's National Science and Research Priority areas			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate outcome at time grant is awarded			
Methodology	Quantitative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes all applications where outcomes were finalised (i.e. a ministerial decision occurs) within the specified reporting period. The total number of projects indicating their research is in a National Science and Research Priority area to the total number of projects administered in the reporting period. 			
Data Source	Data extracted from the ARC NCGP administrative database.			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 19, PBS 2020–21 pages 151–152			
Target	Maintain the proportion of ARC-funded research projects, fellowships and awards that involve research in one of the Australian Government's Science and Research Priority areas [with baseline based on four-year rolling average]			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
Yearly Result	61.6%	60.2%	65.3%	64.6% [Four-year rolling average of 62.9%] Achieved

Analysis of results

The ARC has achieved Performance Measure 1.11. Approximately 64.6% of projects awarded funding commencing in 2020–21 involved research relevant to the Australian Government's Science and Research Priority areas. This figure is consistent with the outcome achieved in the last 3 years.

The ARC has also considered the results at a program level. The result recorded for the Discovery Program (62.4%) was lower than the result recorded for the Linkage Program (73.7%), reflecting the different objectives of the 2 programs. The Discovery Program is aimed at supporting basic research, while the Linkage Program has a greater focus on supporting research partnerships between universities and organisations that will result in the applied use of research.

Additional context

The ARC supports research across all discipline areas, including science, technology,

engineering and mathematics (STEM), and the humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS)—excluding clinical and pre-clinical health and medical research, which is primarily supported by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

The Australian Government announced the National Science and Research Priority areas in May 2015. The 9 cross-disciplinary priorities are food, soil and water, transport, cybersecurity, energy, resources, advanced manufacturing, environmental change and health. Each priority is associated with 3 to 4 Practical Research Challenges, which aim to guide investment and activity in areas where the Australian Government considers Australia must maintain a strong research and innovation capability.

Individual NCGP funding schemes reference priority areas in their objectives and assessment criteria where appropriate. The ARC does not have any specific initiatives directing funding to the National Science and Research Priorities. However, most NCGP schemes reference the National Science and Research Priorities within objectives or assessment criteria. In applying for NCGP funding, applicants are also asked to indicate if a project falls within the National Science and Research Priorities.

In addition to the National Science and Research Priority areas, in 2020–21 the ARC:

- finalised the selection process for the *Special Research Initiative for Australian Society, History and Culture*. Research projects awarded funding under this SRI will support research on Australian and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander society, history, culture, literature, art, music, politics and geography; and increase research capacity in Australia
- continued to support Industrial Transformation Priorities under the ITRP. The priorities for funding were advanced manufacturing, cyber security, food and agribusiness, medical technologies and pharmaceuticals, mining equipment, technology and services, and oil, gas and energy resources. These priorities are consistent with the 6 high-growth sectors established under the Australian Government's Industry Growth Centres initiative.

Performance indicators

ARC-funded research supports the sustainability of Australia's research workforce

Why is this important?

The ARC NCGP supports a diverse workforce. The following indicators are included within the annual performance statement to provide trend data across multiple years and will contribute to informing policy changes. Please note that the ARC has minimal control over these indicators.

ARC-funded research supports the sustainability of Australia's research workforce

Indicator ⁽¹⁾	Metric	Methodology ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	Year / Number / Percentage
A	Proportion of researchers (unique individuals) on ARC-funded research projects who are early career researchers (ECR)	The number of unique chief investigators (CIs) who are early career researchers ECR status is defined as 0-5 years post-PhD at close of scheme round and is calculated on the basis of PhD data provided by individual researchers	20-21: 292 / 17.2% (new indicator for 2020-21)
B	Proportion of researchers (unique individuals) on ARC-funded research projects who are women	The number of unique CIs who identified as female Number of CIs who identify as female, to the total number of unique individuals (including those who do not identify and those who identify as other)	20-21: 797 / 36.3% 19-20: 924 / 33.4% 18-19: 711 / 33.2% 17-18: 689 / 31.3%
C	Proportion of researchers (unique individuals) on ARC-funded research projects who identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples	The number of unique CIs who identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Number of CIs who self-identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, to total number of unique individuals	20-21: 41 / 1.9% 19-20: 26 / 0.9% 18-19: 37 / 1.7% 17-18: 28 / 1.3%

ARC-funded research supports the sustainability of Australia's research workforce				
Indicator ⁽¹⁾	Metric	Methodology ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾	Year / Number / Percentage	
D	Number of researchers (unique individuals) on ARC-funded research projects	Total number of unique CIs on all research projects awarded within the reporting period	Each unique individual researcher is counted only once for total NCGP	20–21: 2,195 19–20: 2,763 18–19: 2,142 17–18: 2,202
E	Number of researchers on ARC-funded research projects who are fellows or awardees	Total number of researchers who are awarded DECRA, Future Fellowships, Laureate Fellowships or Discovery Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award (supported in Discovery Indigenous) within the reporting period	Each unique individual researcher is counted only once for total NCGP	20–21: 320 19–20: 319 18–19: 221 17–18: 317

(1) Researchers named as Partner Investigators on projects are excluded from these indicators.

(2) All data sourced from the ARC NCGP administrative database.

(3) Data is collated based on all applications where outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurred) within the specified reporting period.

(4) LIEF scheme is excluded.

(5) In some cases, results for previous years presented within this table differ to those recorded in the Corporate Plan 2020–21 and the Annual Report 2019–20 due to refinements to the methodology.

Analysis of results

The performance indicator results show that the ARC is continuing to play an important role in supporting a diverse and sustainable research sector. This includes support for 292 early career researchers (Indicator A) from a total of 2,195 individual Chief Investigators (Indicator D) supported during 2020–21.

The ARC has continued to encourage and support women researchers under the NCGP. The proportion of female Chief Investigators on ARC-funded research projects has increased over the past four years (Indicator B), with a comparative, increase in 2020–21. The 2020–21 result was boosted by the *SRI for Australian Society, History and Culture* which was announced during the reporting period with 65% of Chief Investigators on awarded projects identifying as female.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers supported in 2020–21 is the highest it has been for the last 4 years (Indicator C). The ARC's ongoing commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and research is set out in the *ARC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers and Research Statement* and the *ARC Reconciliation Action Plan 2019–2021*. Like Indicator B, the 2020–21 result has also been positively impacted by the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers supported through the *SRI for Australian Society, History and Culture*.

Finally, the number of researchers on ARC-funded projects who are fellows or awardees in 2020–21 has remained consistent with the previous year (Indicator E).

Impacts on performance

The ARC depends on the Australian research community for its capability to deliver the NCGP and acknowledges the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on Australian universities and researchers during 2020–21 has influenced ARC performance in delivering Program 1.1 – Discovery and Program 1.2 – Linkage. However, the ARC adapted quickly to the changing environment—including putting in place a range of measures to support ARC-funded researchers, applicants and assessors—to ensure that the ARC was able to deliver on all of its objectives for 2020–21 and play an important role in supporting the Australian research sector in the recovery period and beyond.

ASSESSING THE QUALITY, ENGAGEMENT AND IMPACT OF RESEARCH

Description

The ARC is responsible for assessing the quality, engagement and impact of university research through the administration of Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and the Engagement and Impact (EI) assessment. ERA is an assessment framework that identifies research excellence in Australian universities by comparing Australia's research effort against international benchmarks. EI assesses the engagement of researchers with research end-users and shows how universities are translating their research into economic, social, environmental, cultural and other impacts.

Together these frameworks provide a unique, evidence-based resource to inform Australian Government research policy and the strategic direction of Australian universities; and encourage researchers to produce high-quality research with real-world benefits.

Deliverables

The key deliverables for ERA and EI, as identified in the PBS 2020–21 (page 153), were:

- administering an evaluation framework to measure and report on the quality of research conducted at Australia's higher education institutions
- administering a framework to assess engagement and show how universities are translating their research into economic, social, environmental, cultural and other impacts
- informing strategic policy advice on research quality, engagement and impact.

ERA and EI are periodic exercises that were last conducted in 2018. The next round of ERA is scheduled for 2023 and the next round of EI for 2024. Therefore, the priorities for the ARC in 2020–21, as identified in the PBS 2020–21 (page 153), in relation to ERA and EI were:

- analysing and disseminating data and insights arising from the ERA and EI exercises for the benefit of Government, universities, and other stakeholders
- reviewing the ERA and EI exercises.

In 2020–21 the ARC:

- completed a comprehensive review of ERA and EI which included establishing an external, expert Advisory Committee comprising leaders from the university and research end-user communities
- conducted extensive consultations with universities, researchers, Indigenous research experts, research end-users and government stakeholders to inform the ERA EI Review
- provided program data and policy advice on a wide range of matters relating to research quality, engagement and impact.

Performance Measures

ERA provides assurance of the quality of research in Australia

Why is this important?

ERA uses rigorous and transparent research assessment to promote pursuit of excellence across all fields and all types of research. ERA provides a rich and robust source of information on university research excellence and activity to inform and support the needs of university, industry, government and community stakeholders. ERA provides government and the public with evidence of the quality of research produced by Australia's universities and allows for comparisons between Australian universities and against world standards for all discipline areas.

ERA provides assurance of the quality of research in Australia – as indicated by				
Performance Measure 2.1	ERA methodology is reviewed			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate A report to the ARC CEO is produced regarding the review of the ERA process/methodology which outlines recommendations for changes in future ERA rounds.			
Methodology	Qualitative			
Data source	ARC records, public consultation and expert advice			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 20, PBS 2020–21 page 153			
Target	Review report completed			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	Achieved

(1) This is a new measure with reporting commencing from 2020–21.

Analysis of results

The ARC has completed Performance Measure 2.1. The ERA EI Review Advisory Committee, comprising representatives from universities, research end-users and government, has provided its report to the ARC CEO. The report was published on the ARC website on 16 June 2021, along with the ARC's action plan to implement the recommendations.

The Advisory Committee met between 20 March 2020 and 8 April 2021 and considered how best to improve the value of ERA and EI to stakeholders across the university sector and the public, streamline the programs to reduce reporting burden for universities, and maintain best practice in research assessment.

In undertaking the review, the Advisory Committee was informed by extensive consultation. Due to COVID-19, it was necessary to conduct consultation activities virtually rather than face-to-face. Between 18 August and 12 October 2020, the ARC received 112 submissions from individuals and organisations in response to the public consultation paper. The Advisory Committee also considered issues raised by the Impact Study Research Project, in which the ARC commissioned advice on EI from experts from the University of Melbourne, the University of York, and King's College London. Finally, the Advisory Committee considered advice from targeted consultation with key stakeholder groups including the ERA 2018 Research Evaluation Committee (REC) Chairs, Chairs of EI 2018 Assessment Panels and research end-users, and experts in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research.

The ARC CEO has accepted all 22 recommendations of the report. The *ERA EI Review Action Plan* sets out the ARC's commitments to implement the recommendations through the next ERA and EI rounds and into future years.

ERA provides assurance of the quality of research in Australia – as indicated by				
Performance Measure 2.2	Review outcomes are implemented through revised methodology, where required			
Metric/Outcome	Intermediate Review recommendations are reflected in changes to key ERA documents (e.g., submission and assessment guidelines) and processes.			
Methodology	Qualitative			
Data Source	ARC records and published material			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 20, PBS 2020–21 page 153			
Target	Publication of ERA 2023 submission and assessment documentation			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

(1) This is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period, noting that results will not be available until 2021–22.

Analysis of results

There are no results to report on for this measure for 2020–21. Revisions to ERA methodology will be implemented in 2021–22 and future years.

ERA provides assurance of the quality of research in Australia – as indicated by				
Performance Measure 2.3	Research quality of participating universities is assessed and reported on			
Metric/Outcome	Intermediate 100% of eligible submissions are assessed in accordance with relevant criteria and results are published.			
Methodology	Quantitative			
Data Source	ARC records			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 20, PBS 2020–21 page 153			
Target	100% of eligible submissions are assessed in accordance with relevant criteria and results are published			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	Achieved	n/a	n/a

Analysis of results

There are no results to report on for this measure for 2020–21. The next data collection for this performance measure is scheduled for 2023.

ERA provides assurance of the quality of research in Australia – as indicated by				
Performance Measure 2.4	Use of ERA program data to assist in the development of Australian Government policies			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate, intermediate The ARC uses ERA data to provide evidence-based advice to assist in Government decision-making			
Methodology	Qualitative			
Data Source	Information gathering – ongoing activity			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 20, PBS 2020–21 page 153			
Target	ERA program reports and activities inform Australian Government policy			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

Analysis of results

The ARC has determined that performance measure 2.4 has been achieved. In 2020–21, the ARC continued to engage with Australian government agencies to provide input on specific issues and ensure that ERA program data informs policy. Although no new ERA or EI data was published in 2020–21, the ERA and EI national reports, the *Gender and the Research Workforce: Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2018* report, and high-rated EI narratives remain important data sources for government. Data from the *Gender and the Research Workforce* report provides a unique analysis of gender representation by staffing level and field of research at Australian universities and continues to be used by the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources, STEM Equity Monitor. The EI impact narratives provide a wealth of information on specific activities universities are undertaking to translate their research into impacts for end-users. For example, the ARC made a submission to the *Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee Inquiry into funding for public research into foreign policy issues*. The submission drew on EI data to inform the committee of 4 high-rated impact studies relating to foreign policy at Australian universities.

Additional context

Throughout the process of the ERA EI Review, the ARC has focused on two-way dialogue with government users (and potential users) of ERA and EI data to ensure future data releases inform government policy. This included representation from the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE), the Chief Scientist, the NHMRC, and the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources on the ERA EI Review Advisory Committee. The ARC has accepted 2 recommendations of the review focused on improving the value of ERA and EI data for stakeholders, including government.

During 2020–21, the ARC commenced discussions with DESE on aligning data collections to ensure government data requirements are met without undue reporting burden on universities. The ARC also engaged with the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency regarding proposed updates to provider category standards, and how ERA and/or EI data could be used to support decision-making in this area.

ERA encourages excellent, internationally competitive research

Why is this important?

Improvements in research quality lead to a better social rate of return on research. The ARC’s aim is to ensure these outcomes can be realised for Australia through the conduct of a best practice assessment of the engagement, impact and quality of research at Australian universities.

ERA encourages excellent, internationally competitive research – as indicated by				
Performance Measure 2.5	Use of ERA program data to inform the strategic planning of Australian universities			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate, Intermediate Universities refer to ERA in their strategic planning documentation			
Methodology	Quantitative, qualitative			
Data Source	Survey and analysis of Australian university planning and reporting documents			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 20, PBS 2020–21 page 153			
Target	ERA program reports and activities inform strategic planning at eligible Australian universities			
Results	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved

Analysis of results

To determine whether Performance Measure 2.5 was met, the ARC conducted a desktop survey of the publicly available strategic plans, annual reports and websites of all 42 universities that were eligible to participate in ERA and EI 2018. The results from this survey, as described below, show that the ARC met the Performance Measure target, as in 2020–21 ERA and EI program reports and activities informed strategic planning at eligible Australian higher education institutions.

The survey found that 98% of universities listed their ERA results or referred to ERA as a measure of success in their strategic plans, annual reports, or websites. This included 62% of universities making such references in their strategic plans or annual reports alone. The survey also examined whether the universities made general reference to their research strengths, building and identifying opportunities relating to research excellence, or use of research excellence as

a key performance indicator – that is, behaviours consistent with the ERA objectives. Research excellence was identified as a priority in the strategic plans or annual reports of 88% of universities, and this increased to 98% when websites were included.

For EI, the survey found that 79% of universities listed their EI results or referred to EI as a measure of success in their strategic plans, annual reports or websites. This included 57% of universities making such references in their strategic plans or annual reports alone. When considering the more general reference to strengths in engagement and impact, building and identifying opportunities relating to engagement and impact, or using engagement and impact as a form of performance indicator – that is, behaviours consistent with the objectives of EI – the survey found that 45% of universities made such mentions in their strategic plans or annual reports alone. This increased to 90% when websites were included. When the survey was expanded to assess references to either research engagement or impact alone (as universities do not always discuss both issues simultaneously) it found that 88% of universities identified engagement and/or impact as a priority in their strategic plans and annual reports. This increased to 98% when websites were included.

These results demonstrated that ERA and EI informed strategic planning at eligible Australian universities.

The EI assessment encourages impactful engagement within and beyond the research sector

Why is this important?

EI aims to use rigorous and transparent assessment of research engagement and impact to promote better practice engagement with, and translation of research into benefits for, end-users and the Australian community more broadly. EI results provide a rich and robust source of information on the strategies, practices and benefits of university research engagement and impact to inform and support the needs of university, industry, community and government stakeholders. EI provides evidence that Australia's universities are undertaking valued engagement with research end-users, embedding practices of engagement and impact, and producing research with social, economic, environmental and cultural benefits. With further improvement to the methodology (as recommended by the ERA EI Review Advisory Committee), EI can provide a basis for discipline-level comparisons between Australian universities of research engagement and impact performance.

The EI Assessment encourages impactful engagement within and beyond the research sector – as indicated by

Performance Measure 2.6		EI assessment methodology reviewed			
Metric/Outcome	Immediate A report is produced regarding the review of the EI process/ methodology which outlines recommendations for changes in future EI rounds				
Methodology	Qualitative				
Data Source	ARC records (report and recommendations on changes for future EI rounds)				
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 21, PBS 2020–21 page 153				
Target	Review report completed				
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21	
	n/a	n/a	n/a	Achieved	

(1) This is a new measure with reporting commencing from 2020–21.

Analysis of results

The completed ERA EI Review covered both ERA and EI. The consultation process, final report, and ARC action plan described under Performance Measure 2.1 all addressed improvements to EI as well as ERA. A full analysis is at Performance Measure 2.1.

The EI Assessment encourages impactful engagement within and beyond the research sector – as indicated by

Performance Measure 2.7	Review outcomes are implemented through revised methodology, where required			
Metric/Outcome	Intermediate Successful publication of the EI 2024 submission and assessment documentation, reflecting review outcomes			
Methodology	Qualitative			
Data Source	ARC records and published material			
Measure Source	CP 2020–21 page 21, PBS 2020–21 page 153			
Target	Publication of EI 2024 submission and assessment documentation			
Results ⁽¹⁾	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20	2020–21
	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

(1) This is a new measure for the 2020–21 reporting period, noting that results will not be available until 2021–22

Analysis of results

There are no results to report on for this measure for 2020–21. Revisions to EI methodology will be implemented in 2021–22 and future years.

Impacts on performance

There were no changes in the ARC’s activities, organisational capability or environment that impacted significantly on its performance in delivering Program 1.3 - Excellence in Research for Australia.

The ARC adapted quickly to the evolving COVID-19 pandemic by increasing focus on webinars and teleconferences instead of in-person meetings for consultation on the ERA EI Review. At the request of universities, the ARC delayed public consultation for the ERA EI Review by 6 months to accommodate pressures on research offices amidst the pandemic. However, the review was still completed in June 2021 allowing adequate time to implement improvements before the ERA 2023 and EI 2024 assessments.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Outcomes of ARC supported research

The ARC's *Making a difference—Outcomes of ARC supported research* is an annual publication that demonstrates how research funded through the NCGP is making a real difference to Australia, and the world. The following case studies reflect a selection of the research projects captured by *Making a difference*, which demonstrate the economic, environmental, social, health and/or cultural benefits arising from ARC-funded research. The full publication can be accessed through the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > News > Publications > Making a difference

Huge new dataset reveals chemical data on 600,000 stars

Named researcher(s): Associate Professor Sarah Martell

Institution: The University of New South Wales

Scheme: ARC Centre of Excellence for All Sky Astrophysics in 3 Dimensions

The largest set of stellar chemical data ever compiled, 'GALAH DR3', has astronomers very excited. The data, based on over 30 million individual measurements taken over 7 years, was gathered by an Australian-led team of researchers. The GALAH team aims to investigate the history of star formation, chemical enrichment, and galaxy mergers in the Milky Way. The team has been building a data set that can answer those questions and more, and they have made DR3 available to researchers worldwide. The new catalogue delivers measurements of 29 chemical elements in 600,000 stars, taking the project closer to meeting its goal of surveying one million stars. The GALAH project's previous data release, known as DR2, took place in 2018. It has fuelled a raft of significant discoveries regarding the evolution of the Milky Way, the properties of exo-planets, and hidden star clusters.

Image: Day and night at the Anglo Australian Telescope, used to conduct the star survey at Siding Spring in rural New South Wales.

Credit: Dr Ángel R. López-Sánchez/Australian Astronomical Optics/Macquarie University/ASTRO 3D.

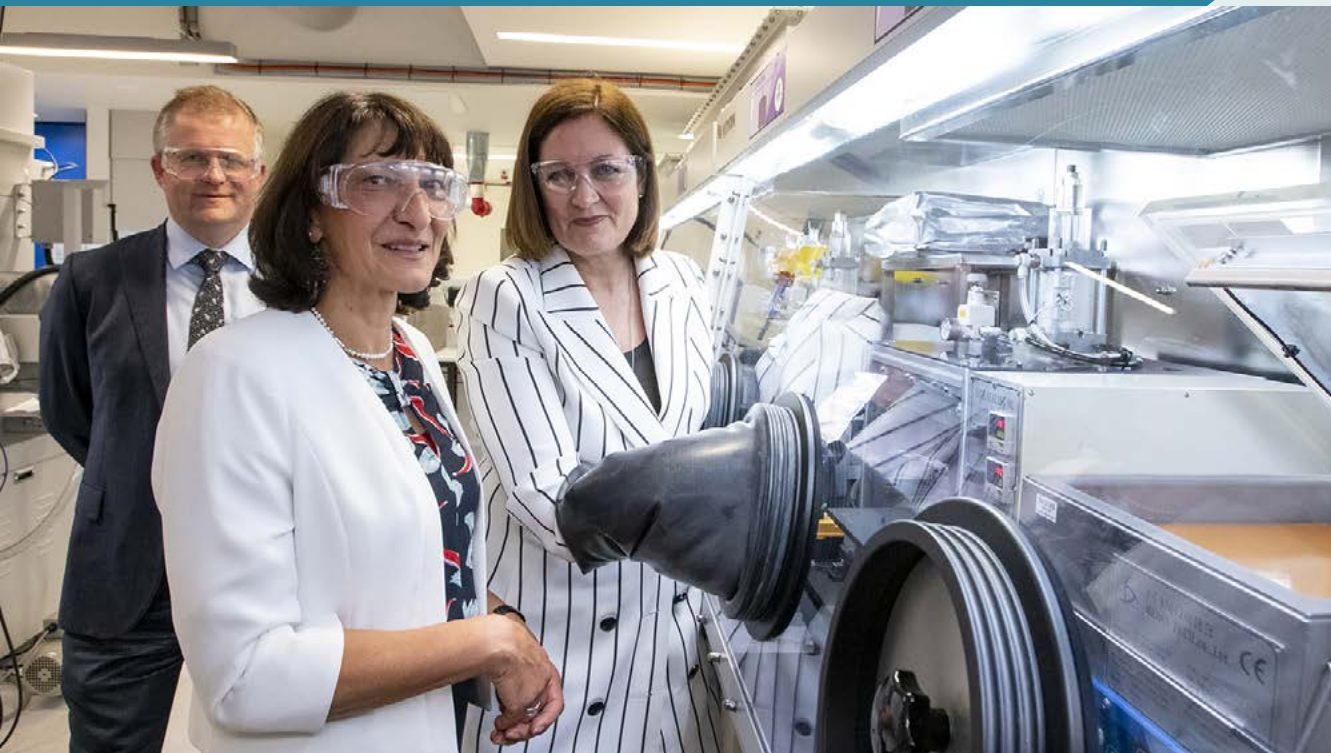


Future is fully charged with new battery technology

Named researcher(s): Professor Maria Forsyth

Institution: Deakin University

Scheme: *Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Future Energy Storage Technologies*



There is an enormous research effort underway to increase the efficiency and reliability of the rechargeable Lithium-ion (LI) battery. This has become a ubiquitous technology that is powering our mobile devices and electric cars, as well as providing efficient storage for renewably generated electricity. Professor Maria Forsyth, a former ARC Australian Laureate Fellow at Deakin University, is Director of the *ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Future Energy Storage Technologies* (storEnergy) and is determined that the next battery technology breakthrough will have a manufacturing home in Australia.

The research teams from Deakin University at storEnergy are working with 11 local Australian companies and organisations to push the frontiers of battery technology in different ways. Some teams are focused on improving existing LI cells in order to make them higher energy density. Other teams are exploring new battery formulations, such as replacing lithium with sodium which is more readily available and more environmentally friendly. Researchers are working to develop the manufacturing processes for electrolyte components, including polymers and the special salts that go into batteries, to be up-scaled, and to make them cleaner and cheaper. Professor Forsyth says that the current LI cell dates from 1992, and that the markets are now at the tipping point for deciding what the next generation of batteries will be and who will make them – driven by the need for new kinds of batteries with different properties. She believes that there is real potential for the birth of a new battery industry on Australia's shores from the translation of these research efforts.

Image: Professor Maria Forsyth (centre) with Vice Chancellor of Deakin University, Professor Iain Martin and Senator the Honourable Sarah Henderson at the official launch of the ARC Industrial Transformation Training Centre in Future Energy Storage Technologies.

Credit: Donna Squire/Deakin University.

Dating Gwion Gwion rock art figures in the Kimberley

Named researcher(s): Professor Peter Veth, Dr Sven Ouzman

Institution: The University of Western Australia

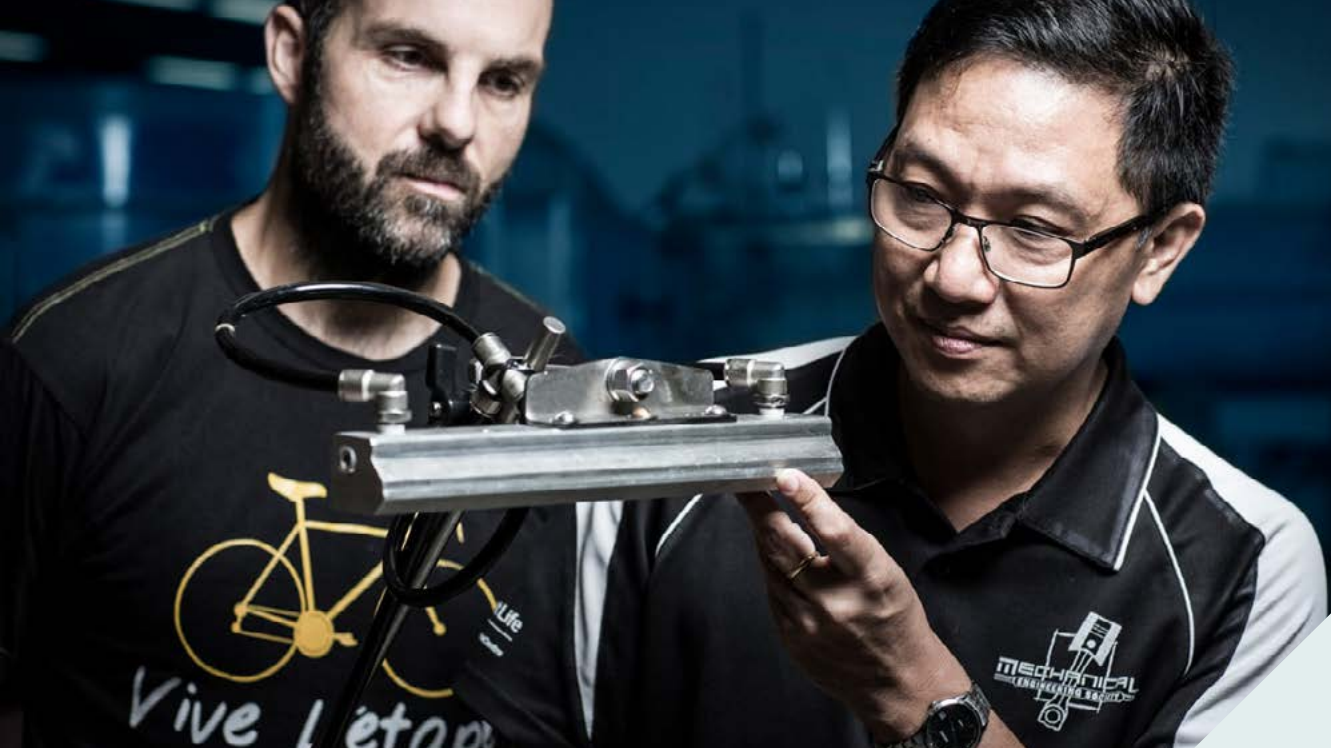
Scheme: *Linkage Projects*



A team of archaeologists has been able to accurately date a significant number of the Kimberley's most remarkable ancient rock art to more than 10,000 years ago. 'Gwion Gwion' is one of the best-known art styles showing human figures with complex headdresses and body ornaments. The style forms part of a long Aboriginal tradition of signalling places of importance within the wider landscape. As with other rock art worldwide, older styles have proven notoriously difficult to date quantitatively, therefore requiring new scientific approaches. The research team's method of dating carbon found in mud wasp nests under and overlying Gwion Gwion images has produced a remarkably consistent suite of dates clustering around 12,000 years ago. One motif dates back approximately 17,000 years. The Kimberley region of Western Australia is of great significance as it not only hosts thousands of rock art sites with some earlier depictions in an exceptionally good state of preservation, but it also provides a window into how Aboriginal people thought and lived in a socially and environmentally dynamic world.

Image: The Gwion Gwion paintings were created by the ancestors of the Balanggarra people.

Credit: Mark Jones



It's all in the coating – creating longer lasting steel products

Named researcher(s): Associate Professor Buyung Kosasih, Mr Wayne Renshaw

Institution: University of Wollongong

Scheme: *Industrial Transformation Research Hubs*

The Steel Research Hub based in the University of Wollongong, in collaboration with BlueScope, is investigating complex manufacturing challenges to create more durable building products. One of the critical challenges being addressed by the research team is how to produce smooth, uniform, thin metallic alloy coatings on high-quality coated steel products. Coated steel products are important for Australian steel manufacturers, particularly in building applications that must withstand the demands of the harsh Australian climate for extended periods. Metallic alloy coatings are applied to a strip of steel by first passing the strip through a molten alloy bath, such as in hot-dip galvanising; then, as the strip passes out of the bath, an air jet knife is used to blow or 'wipe' away the excess coating material to achieve the desired coating thickness and uniformity. A uniform coating has a more durable finish that is less likely to corrode.

Working closely with BlueScope engineers, the research team has developed mathematical and numerical models that help to predict the complex coating process under different operating conditions. Their mathematical model is the first of its kind to link the instability of the air jet knife to potential non-uniformities in the coating surface. This has highlighted a critical operating threshold that produces a smooth finish of the metallic alloy coating.

Image: Andrew Johnston and Buyung Kosasih, assessing the performance of the Mark I slotted air jet laboratory equipment.

Credit: Paul Jones.

What opal fossils tell us about giant Australian dinosaurs

Named researcher(s): Mr Timothy Frauenfelder, Dr Nicolas Campione, and Dr Phil Bell

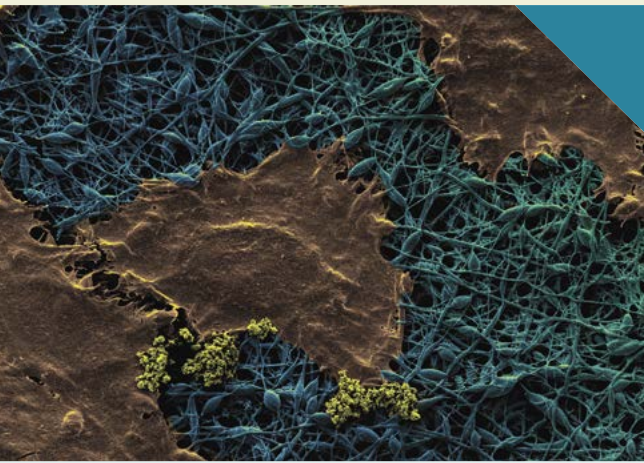
Institution: University of New England

Scheme: *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award*

Researchers from the University of New England have been studying opalised dinosaur teeth in order to help paint a picture of the eating habits and lifestyles of the largest land animals on the planet; sauropods. This research identified 5 'morphotypes' (or tooth-shape categories) from the 25 teeth that were studied. By comparing these teeth with the teeth of better-known sauropods, the researchers identified at least 3 distinct species that would have cohabited within the area of New South Wales. The researchers also studied microscopic scratches and pits, known as 'microwear', on the surfaces of each tooth that formed when the animal was biting into its food. By analysing these marks, the researchers identified the grittiness or smoothness of the dinosaur's diet, which indicated that they coexisted by eating different things; one species likely fed on soft vegetation, whereas another ate coarser vegetation. This discovery has contributed significantly to the very limited understanding of the sauropods that once inhabited New South Wales.

Image: Sauropod teeth fossils (not to scale) showing the diversity of tooth shapes found at Lightning Ridge, New South Wales. The fossils have different colours since they're all made from opal.

Credit: Timothy Frauenfelder.



'Smart' wound dressing technology

Named researcher(s): Dr Asma Khalid, Professor Brant Gibson

Institution: RMIT University

Scheme: *ARC Centre of Excellence for Nanoscale BioPhotonics*

A next generation wound dressing has been developed that can detect infection and improve healing in burns, skin grafts and chronic wounds. Smart wound dressings made

of silk and nanodiamonds could detect early signs of infection by sensing wound temperature, as well as acting to reduce infection from certain bacteria. The diamonds are known to detect biologically-relevant temperatures to a highly precise level, thereby incorporating the heat sensing capability in the dressings. The researchers have also tested the technology for resistance to bacteria, the major cause of skin wound infections. Their study found that the nanodiamond silk membranes demonstrated an extremely high antibacterial resistance. This new technology offers a solution to the global challenge of wound care and healing by detecting infections early and non-invasively, without the painful procedure of dressing removal.

Image: Diamond silk fibres are electro spun to form porous membranes, shown in bluish green colour, with the golden-brown colour representing the skin cell growth on the membrane.

Credit: Colour enhanced image treatment by Daniel Oldfield.

First underwater Indigenous sites on Australian seabed

Named researcher(s): Associate

Professor Jonathan Benjamin

Institution: Flinders University

Scheme: *Discovery Projects*

Australia's oldest known underwater Indigenous archaeological sites were discovered at Cape Bruguieres and

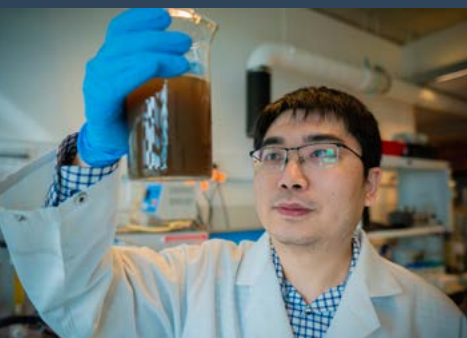
Flying Foam Passage, Western Australia. The sites were discovered during a series of archaeological and geophysical surveys that were conducted off the Pilbara coast in Western Australia by an international team of archaeologists from various international universities, in partnership with the Murujuga Aboriginal Corporation. These sites provide new insight into Indigenous ways of life from thousands of years ago, when the seabed was dry land due to lower sea levels. The dive team mapped 269 artefacts in shallow water from the site at Cape Bruguieres, which is at least 7,000 years old. The second site, at Flying Foam Passage, is estimated to be at least 8,500 years old. It includes an underwater freshwater spring located 14 metres below sea level. The submerged cultural landscapes are known today as Sea Country to many Indigenous Australians, who have a deep cultural, spiritual and historical connection to these underwater sites.

Image: Westward facing aerial view of Cape Bruguieres Channel at high tide.

Credit: J. Leach.



Harvesting human waste for green energy



Named researcher(s): Associate Professor Qilin Wang

Institution: University of Technology Sydney

Scheme: *Future Fellowships*

ARC Future Fellow, Associate Professor Qilin Wang, is working on a technology that could turn wastewater treatment plants into carbon-neutral energy generators. His goal is to transform the energy-consuming and high emission sewage treatment process into a zero energy – or energy producing – low-emission process. Treating human waste using current methods consumes a large amount of energy and also produces greenhouse gas emissions,

while being a major expense for councils and water utilities. While some treatment plants already produce what's known as biogas, existing processes recover just 5 to 10% of the energy stored in sewage. Associate Professor Wang's breakthrough is to recruit an unwanted by-product of the wastewater treatment process – ammonia – by mixing it in with the sewage sludge to help transform some of its non-biodegradable components, and free up organics for biogas production. Laboratory experiments suggest the process could significantly improve energy recovery from sewage. It's also easy to implement, with no need for special equipment or inputs such as chemicals or external energy. This free-ammonia technology could also reduce the presence of antibiotic resistant genes in the sludge, and therefore in the environment, where they can negatively impact human health.

Image: Associate Professor Qilin Wang.

Credit: Kev Anastacio.



Cell gatekeepers could be the key to better crops

Named researcher(s): Ms Annamaria De Rosa, Dr John Evans, Dr Michael Groszmann

Institution: The Australian National University

Scheme: ARC Centre of Excellence for Translational Photosynthesis

A group of researchers at the Australian National University has shed new light on the network of gatekeepers controlling the 'traffic' of molecules in and out of plant cells. These gatekeepers include a sieve of microscopic pores made of special proteins called

aquaporins. Aquaporins are vital for numerous processes including water transport, growth and development, stress responses, root nutrient uptake, and photosynthesis. The research has identified all the different types of aquaporins found in a model plant species of tobacco (*Nicotiana tabacum*), which is closely related to major economic crops such as tomato, potato, eggplant and capsicum. Potential applications for crop improvement include increased photosynthesis, more efficient water and fertiliser use, improved drought tolerance and more effective response to disease infection. This discovery could hold the key to developing food crops with bigger yields and an improved ability to cope with extreme environments.

Image: Michael Groszmann, John Evans and Annamaria De Rosa in the glasshouse with tobacco plants. Credit: Natalia Bateman Vargas.

Recording the stories carved in ancient boab trees

Named researcher(s): Dr Melissa Marshall, Professor Sue O'Connor, Professor Jane Balme, and Dr Ursula Frederick

Institution: The University of Notre Dame Australia

Scheme: ARC Special Research Initiative for Australian Society, History and Culture

Research leaders from 4 Australian universities are working with Aboriginal communities in the Kimberley to develop the first systematic archive of carved boab trees ever undertaken. These trees record the stories of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in the region, including from the time of the first European contact. The researchers are recording both Indigenous and non-Indigenous carvings on the boab trees, to learn about the little-known traditional Indigenous cultural and artistic practice, as well as piece together more information about the daily lives of people living on missions and pastoral properties prior to and immediately following European contact. The project will create the archive using state-of-the-art technology to capture accurate 3D records of the markings. The research team brings together a wide breadth of expertise, including local knowledge and the latest photogrammetry and scanning techniques. The team is also examining unpublished manuscripts, diaries, letters, mission records, newspapers and published historical and anthropological literature for the Kimberley, to contextualise the carvings as they are recorded. The final outcomes will be made available digitally for future generations to see.



Image: One of the iconic boab trees with a carving in the Kimberley, WA.

Credit: Jane Balme.



Making tall timber buildings fire safe

Named researcher(s): Mr Hangyu Xu

Institution: The University of Queensland

Scheme: *Industrial Transformation Research Hubs*

A research team is bringing together experts from industry, government, and academia who are committed to the future development of safe tall timber buildings within the Pacific region. These researchers are advancing the science of tall timber construction including the development of design solutions for engineered wood products such as Cross-Laminated Timber (CLT). Engineered wood products have multiple beneficial qualities including having naturally-insulative properties, advantageous structural performance, sustainability, and aesthetic features. They also use sustainably managed plantations, and prefabricated construction technologies that minimise waste while enhancing building quality and performance.

To ensure the fire-safe use of mass timber structures in tall timber buildings, researchers from the *ARC Research Hub to Transform Future Tall Timber Buildings* (ARC Future Timber Hub) are developing a design framework to define the conditions that enable the self-extinction of mass engineered timber. This is especially important for timber used in tall buildings, where there is a fear of massive conflagrations and fire-induced progressive collapse. With various industry partners, the team conducted a series of 6 large-scale compartment fire tests at the Queensland Fire and Emergency Services' Live Fire Campus to validate the framework. Each test was equipped with more than 500 sensors and a 14-metre-high buoyancy calorimeter used to acquire essential data for characterising the fire behaviour. These tests help the industry to be familiar with the research practices and outcomes that are later applied in engineering design. The tests are also useful for engineers to understand the phenomena they are designing for, and the limitations of the tools that may come up from the research. This research is fundamental for the timber and fire engineering industry. Therefore, it is key that academia and industry engage heavily in this process; this being one of the key drivers of the ARC Future Timber Hub.

Image: PhD Student, Hangyu Xu, in front of the fire test room.

Credit: ARC Future Timber Hub.



Healing land and people with biodiversity research

Named researcher(s): Mr Darryl Kickett, Professor Anna Haebich, Dr Carol Dowling, Professor Stephen Hopper, Dr Tiffany Shellam

Institution: Curtin University

Scheme: *Discovery Indigenous*

A Discovery Indigenous research project is advancing reconciliation in Australia by bringing together scientific expertise, history and Indigenous cultural knowledge in order to conserve the country's precious biodiversity. The unique research project combines expertise in cultural healing, cross-cultural knowledge of biodiversity on old and young landscapes, archival collections-based historical studies, and oral histories explored on country with Nyungar people and along songlines in southwest Australia. For many years, Darryl Kickett has been instigating opportunities for Aboriginal leaders, communities and government to work together. In this project Noongar Elders and family groups are contributing historical knowledge about how the study area, the Dryandra Woodlands south of Perth, has been used for thousands of years. By combining this knowledge with scientific assessments, the research team from Curtin University is working to heal the land, by slowing the decline in biodiversity within the woodlands and surrounding area. This collaboration provides a model opportunity to embrace Indigenous Elders as a solution to protecting biodiversity, and to advance the progress of reconciliation between Noongar people, non-Indigenous community members and land.



Image credit (top): Curtin University. Image credit (right): Research leader Darryl Kickett. Credit: Supplied by Mr Kickett.

Insect wings might be the new weapon against ‘superbugs’

Named researcher(s): Distinguished Professor

Elena Ivanova

Institution: RMIT University

Scheme: *Industrial Transformation Training Centres*

A team of scientists revealed that biomedical antimicrobial nanotechnology, inspired by insect wings, can destroy bacteria on contact. This holds a promise for a new era of biomedical antimicrobial nanotechnology. The wings of cicadas and dragonflies are natural bacteria killers, a phenomenon that has spurred researchers searching for ways to defeat drug-resistant superbugs. New anti-bacterial surfaces are being developed, featuring different nanopatterns that mimic the deadly action of insect wings which can stretch, slice or tear bacteria apart on contact. If the scientists can understand how these nanopatterns kill bacteria, they can be precise in engineering these shapes. Their goal is to improve effectiveness against infections by developing low-cost and scalable anti-bacterial surfaces for use in implants and hospitals.

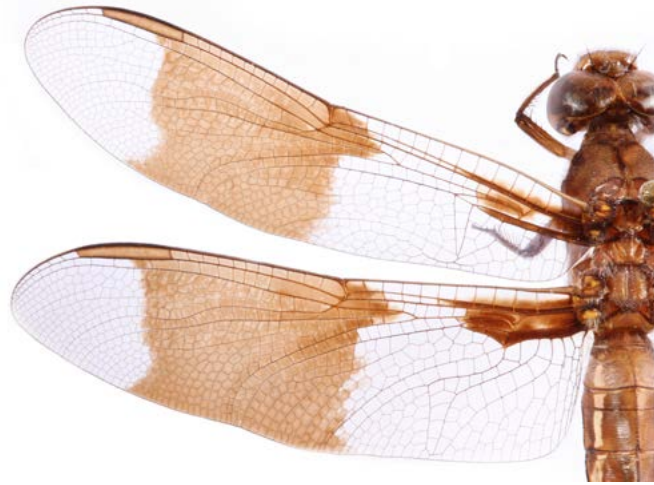


Image: Common whitetail dragonfly.

Credit: Public domain image by Christopher Johnson (Insects Unlocked, University of Texas at Austin).

Restoring underwater leafy habitats



Named researcher(s): Associate Professor Adriana Vergés

Institution: The University of New South Wales

Scheme: *Linkage Projects*

Operation Crayweed is a restoration project that seeks to reverse the disappearance of the world's seaweed forests, which are under pressure from human activity and climate change. In particular, the project aims to restore the endangered *Phyllospora Comosa* (crayweed) to coastlines where it once thrived. This

successful restoration project has had a significant impact on the wider community, both in terms of its environmental effect, as well as its ability to engage and inspire the local community in the protection of seaweeds.

Image: A kelp forest.

Credit: Camille Pagniello, California Sea Grant, Scripps Institution of Oceanography UC San Diego.

SUMMARY

This section provides an overview of the ARC's financial performance during 2020–21 for both departmental and administered activities. It should be read in conjunction with the information on financial performance provided in Part 5, which includes:

- the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) unqualified audit opinion for the statements
- a statement from the CEO and Chief Financial Officer that the statements comply with the PGPA Act
- the ARC's financial statements.

The ARC resource statement is presented in Appendix 3, **Table A3**, followed by the ARC expenses for outcome 1 which is presented in **Table A4**.

The ARC's total appropriated resources for 2020–21 were \$834.6 million. This comprised:

- \$812.1 million for the administered appropriation (\$806.2 million special appropriation, including \$2.8 million special account, for the NCGP and \$5.9 million for the annual administered appropriation)
- \$22.5 million for the departmental appropriation (\$21.3 million for operating expenses and \$1.2 million for the Departmental Capital Budget).

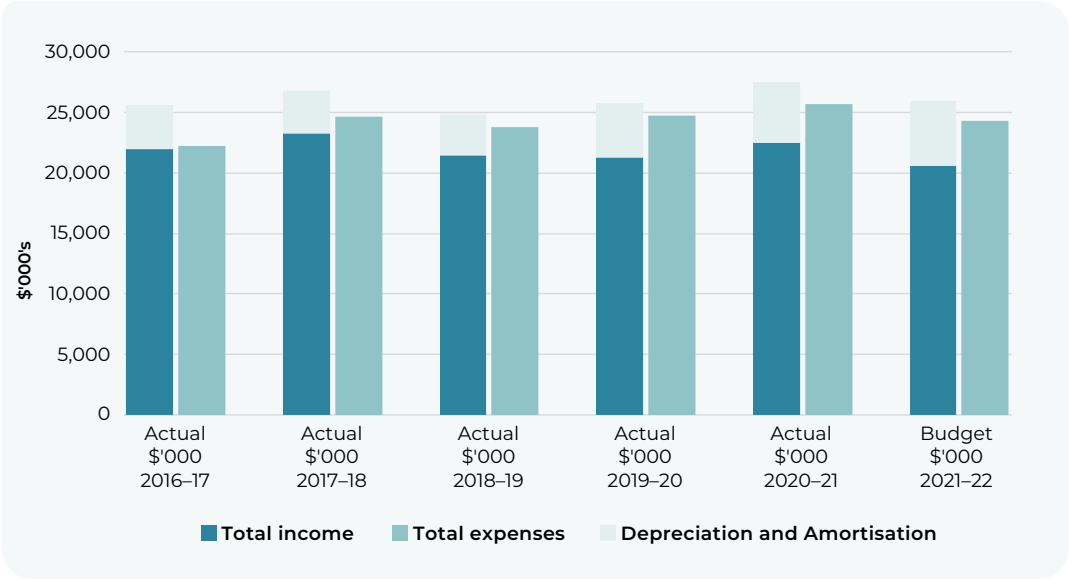
DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES

Departmental activities include assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses that the ARC controls directly and uses to produce outcomes on behalf of the Australian Government.

For 2020–21 the ARC recorded an operating deficit of \$3.1 million compared to the original budget position of \$3.0 million.

Figure 6 outlines the ARC's departmental financial performance over the past five years and the current budget for 2021–22. From 2019–20 Government funding is stable running at just over \$21 million per annum. Funding was higher in 2017–18 because of an additional \$2 million in Government funding received for the Special Research Initiative - Per and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remediation Research Program. In 2020–21, the ARC received \$1.2 million from providing grant services to 3 Commonwealth entities. The increase in depreciation and amortisation expenses from 2019–20 compared to earlier years can be attributed to the adoption of the new leasing accounting standard AASB16 which took effect from 1 July 2019.

FIGURE 6: Departmental financial performance, 2016–17 to 2021–22

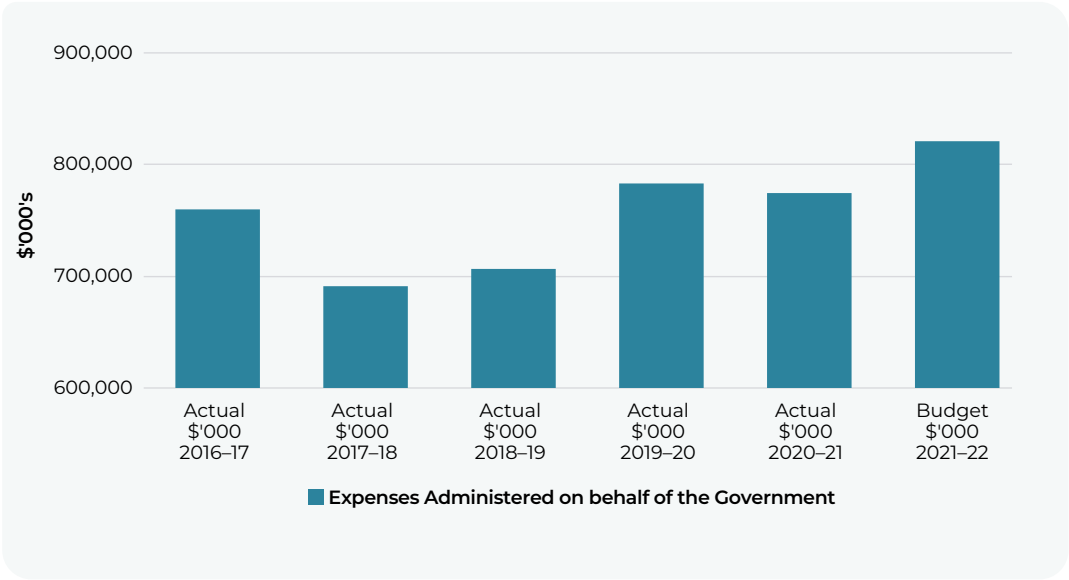


ADMINISTERED ACTIVITIES

Administered activities include assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses that are managed by the ARC on behalf of the Australian Government, including grants and supplier costs.

Figure 7 outlines the ARC's administered financial expenditure over the past 6 years and the budget for 2021–22. The expenditure fluctuates from year to year and reflects the Government's priorities and the timing of when expenditure has been recognised.

FIGURE 7: Administered financial performance, 2016–17 to 2021–22



PART 04

MANAGEMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

4.1	Corporate governance	73
4.2	External scrutiny	87
4.3	Management of human resources	89
4.4	Assets management	102
4.5	Purchasing	103
4.6	Consultancy and non-consultancy contracts	104
4.7	Australian National Audit Office access clauses and exempt contracts	107
4.8	Procurement initiatives to support small business	108
4.9	Other mandatory information	109

FRAUD MANAGEMENT

In accordance with section 10 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014* (PGPA Rule), the ARC CEO must take all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and deal with fraud relating to the agency. No instances of fraud were identified in 2020–21.

The ARC recognises the need for a sound and robust financial framework based on legal and ethical decision-making. Management has a key responsibility to ensure that the ARC's assets are safeguarded against loss by fraud or negligence. ARC staff are required to implement and adhere to fraud control procedures and report all instances of suspected fraud.

The *ARC Fraud Control Plan* complies with the *Commonwealth Fraud Control Framework 2017*. The plan was reviewed and updated in July 2020 and is due to be reviewed again in 2022. All potential fraud incidents are followed through until a resolution is achieved. The Chief Financial Officer reports all fraud and potential fraud incidents to the ARC Audit Committee.

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

Senior executive and their responsibilities

As at 30 June 2021 the ARC's senior executive roles consisted of the:

- CEO
- Branch Manager, Corporate Services
- Branch Manager, Grant Due Diligence Taskforce
- Branch Manager, Policy and Strategy
- Branch Manager, Research Excellence.

There was one change to the ARC's senior executive during the 2020–21 period. The Executive General Manager (EGM) position, previously held by Dr Tony Willis, became vacant in April 2021. The ARC has not recruited for the position of EGM following the departure of Dr Willis. This is to enable a flatter management structure, which is consistent with advice received from the recent review of the Australian Public Service (APS).

In addition, the ARC had 3 senior staff (the Chief Information Officer, Chief Financial Officer and Chief Program Officer) and 4 Executive Directors with academic research backgrounds.

Responsibilities



Professor Sue Thomas—Chief Executive Officer

Professor Sue Thomas has statutory responsibilities for managing and leading the agency in accordance with legislated requirements. Under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act), the CEO is required to make recommendations to the Minister on which applications should be approved for funding, administer the financial assistance for research provided through the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) and provide advice to the Minister on research matters.



Ms Julija Deleva—Branch Manager, Corporate Services

Ms Julija Deleva oversees functions within the ARC relating to finance, legal services, people and services, program evaluation, stakeholder relations, parliamentary engagement and research grants services. She became the ARC's Chief Financial Officer in 2009, and in September 2016 commenced in the role of Branch Manager, Corporate Services. She is also the ARC's Indigenous Champion.



Ms Kylie Emery—Branch Manager, Grants Due Diligence Taskforce

Ms Kylie Emery is the Branch Manager of the Grants Due Diligence Taskforce. The taskforce undertakes initial due diligence activities on applications for research grants and is tasked with establishing procedures for undertaking due diligence. Ms Emery is also the ARC's Diversity Champion.



Ms Kathie Dent—Acting Branch Manager, Policy and Strategy

Ms Kathie Dent is the Acting Branch Manager for the Policy and Strategy branch. Ms Dent is responsible for the governance and corporate reporting, access, international and integrity policy, and grant policy and data sections. These areas involve responsibility for NCGP policy, non-financial corporate governance, risk management, research integrity, internal audit, ARC guidelines, as well as data provision and analysis activities.



Ms Sarah Howard—Branch Manager, Research Excellence

Ms Sarah Howard is responsible for the ongoing implementation of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) and Engagement and Impact (EI) assessment programs. Ms Howard oversees the management of the longitudinal datasets for these evaluation and assessment programs, as well as the provision of policy advice on research evaluation assessment and the state of the Australian university research landscape more broadly.



Professor Bronwen Neil—Executive Director, Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA)

Professor Bronwen Neil joined the ARC in June 2020 as Executive Director of HCA. She is seconded from Macquarie University where she is Professor of Byzantine History in the Department of Ancient History. She joined Macquarie University in 2017 while an ARC Future Fellow, and in 2019 became the inaugural director of the university-funded research Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage and Environment (CACHE).



Dr Robert Mun—Executive Director, Engineering and Information Sciences (EIS)

Dr Robert Mun is responsible for EIS issues and NCGP funding schemes. Dr Mun joined the ARC in May 2018. Previously, Dr Mun was Branch Head at the Defence Science and Technology Group with the Australian Department of Defence, and Scientific Advisor to the Navy and the Defence Material Organisation. Dr Mun's research expertise relates to chemical engineering. He managed the Department of Defence's Capability and Technology Demonstrator Program, a grant funding scheme promoting innovative defence technologies.



Dr Mary Kelly—Executive Director for Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB)

Dr Mary Kelly joined the ARC in February 2020. Prior to this, Dr Kelly has served as an Adjunct Executive Director for the ARC. In 2019 Dr Kelly was the inaugural Director of the Centre for Entrepreneurial Agri-Technology, a joint initiative of the Australian National University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). From 2015 to 2018 Dr Kelly was Deputy Vice-Chancellor Research, Development and Industry at Charles Sturt University.



Professor Craig Simmons FTSE—Executive Director for Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences (MPCE)

Professor Craig Simmons joined the ARC in July 2020. Professor Simmons has served as Foundation Director of the National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training, Pro Vice-Chancellor (Strategic Research Projects) at Flinders University and Honorary Professor at The Australian National University. Professor Simmons is an internationally renowned Earth Scientist who has made significant discoveries about groundwater using theory, experiment and computational simulation.

ARC committees and their roles

The ARC's committees support activities across 4 key areas:

- governance
- administration of the NCGP
- administration of ERA and the EI assessment
- research integrity matters arising from ARC-funded research.

Governance

Senior Management Group

The Senior Management Group (SMG) supports the CEO to deliver her responsibilities under the ARC Act, the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and the *Public Service Act 1999* (PS Act). It oversees management of the ARC, monitors and reviews the agency's operations and ensures effective communication of the ARC's priorities to all business areas.

The SMG generally meets every 2 weeks and consists of: the CEO (Chair); Branch Manager, Policy and Strategy; Branch Manager, Corporate Services; Branch Manager, Research Excellence; Chief Information Officer; Chief Financial Officer; Chief Program Officer; and Director, People and Services.

To assist the SMG and the CEO to discharge their duties the ARC has a number of management committees and boards. They include the:

- **Business Continuity Committee**, which ensures that the Business Continuity Plan (BCP) remains current and practical, and is tested on a scheduled basis to minimise the likelihood and/or consequence of any potential risk exposure to the ARC's core business processes
- **Corporate Governance Project Board**, which has oversight and operational management for the delivery of major projects within the ARC
- **Diversity Working Group**, which integrates diversity and equity matters into workplace practice
- **Information Technology (IT) Governance Committee**, which reviews the ARC's ICT service requirements, and provides recommendations on priorities for the ICT Services Branch
- **People Management and Development Committee**, which provides a forum for the ARC to consult with employees and their representatives about workplace issues
- **Planning and Reporting Committee**, which provides advice on all elements of the ARC's planning and reporting framework
- **Program, Strategy and Executive Committee**, which provides advice and recommendations on policy and programs as they relate to the NCGP
- **Security Governance Committee**, which oversees adherence to physical, personal and IT security measures
- **Work Health and Safety Committee**, which develops and promotes initiatives to protect the health and safety of employees, contractors and visitors through the implementation and review of the ARC's work health and safety policies and practices.

Audit Committee

The Audit Committee provides the CEO with assurance by independently reviewing the ARC's financial and performance reporting responsibilities, systems for internal control, risk management and corporate governance.

The Audit Committee is established by the CEO in compliance with the PGPA Act and PGPA Rule (section 17). Its functions and responsibilities are detailed in the *ARC Audit Committee Charter*, which is reviewed annually or as required. The charter is available on the ARC web site, www.arc.gov.au > About ARC > ARC Profile > ARC Committees > [ARC Audit Committee](#).

During 2020–21, the Audit Committee comprised a minimum of 4 members, with the majority external to the ARC. The members collectively possessed a broad range of skills and experience relevant to the operations of the ARC (**Table 3**). The ARC Audit Committee held 5 meetings in 2020–21.

TABLE 3: Membership of the ARC Audit Committee, 2020–21

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience	Number of meetings attended / total number of meetings	Total annual remuneration (GST inclusive)	Additional information
Mr G Rankin, External member (Chair)	Public service governance and management Understanding of the higher education sector	5/5	\$11,960	n/a
Mrs K Toole, External member	Accounting and financial management Public sector and industry financial and audit experience	5/5	\$7,700	n/a
Mr C Brookes, External member	Public service governance and management ICT and cyber security	3/3	\$0	Completed March 2021

Member name	Qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience	Number of meetings attended / total number of meetings	Total annual remuneration (GST inclusive)	Additional information
Mr A Gaukroger External member	Public service governance and management Finance and audit experience	2/2	\$3,600	Commenced February 2021
Mr P McKeon, External member	Public service governance and management ICT and cyber security	1/1	\$1,800	Commenced June 2021
Ms F Smart, External member	Public service governance and management Grants management experience	1/1	\$1,800	Commenced June 2021
Ms J Satrapa, Internal member	Public service governance and management Strategic procurement, program management and grants administration	4/4	\$0	Completed May 2021
Mr J Withers, Internal member	Public service governance and management Understanding of ARC processes and activities	2/2	\$0	Completed September 2020

ARC Advisory Council

The ARC Advisory Council provides strategic advice to the CEO on issues relating to the purpose of the ARC. This includes feedback on strategic planning; policy matters relating to innovation, research and research training; and the evaluation of the quality and outcomes of research and research training in an international context.

The Advisory Council is chaired by the CEO and comprises up to 9 additional members appointed by the CEO. The membership includes a diverse representation of the Australian research sector, including distinguished academics and senior administrators at Australian universities and senior executives with knowledge and expertise in research collaborations with industry and business.

In 2020–21, membership of the Advisory Council reached the end of its appointment term. The ARC commenced the re-appointment process with a view to resuming activities in 2021–22.

Administration of the National Competitive Grants Program

ARC College of Experts

The ARC College of Experts (College) are experts of international standing, drawn from the Australian research community and across all disciplines from higher education, industry and public sector research organisations. They are also eminent members of the wider academic community and/or key industry groups. College members play a key role in the peer review processes of grant applications submitted under the NCGP.

New members are announced annually for terms of up to 3 years, ensuring a consistent source of expertise. At the discretion of the ARC, extensions of up to one year may be offered to ensure that available expertise reflects the range of applications being submitted.

As at 30 June 2021, the College comprised 201 members, including 52 new members appointed for 2021. In the 2021 nomination round, strong emphasis was placed on multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise, with high regard also placed on applicants with a strong assessor history. In addition, nominations from women, people of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander origin, and end-users across the private, public and not-for-profit sectors were particularly encouraged. Continuing to support the *ARC Reconciliation Action Plan*, 10 Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander College members were re-appointed. A list of members is on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > About > ARC Profile > ARC Committees > [ARC College of Experts](#).

Selection Advisory Committees

Selection Advisory Committees (SACs) recommend which applications should be funded, and how much funding successful applications should receive, to the CEO. The nature of the grant opportunity and the volume of applications influence the size and structure of each SAC, which may comprise of College members and/or other distinguished academic researchers and members from end-user communities.

For most schemes, the SAC will be divided into 3, 4 or 5 broad disciplinary panels. For specialist and highly prestigious schemes such as the *Australian Laureate Fellowships*, *Discovery Indigenous*, *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities* (LIEF), *Linkage Projects*, *Industrial Transformation Training Centres* (ITTC), *Industrial Transformation Research Hubs* (ITRH), *Special Research Initiatives* (SRI) and *ARC Centres of Excellence* (CoE) schemes, the SAC consists of a single multi-disciplinary panel.

National Competitive Grants Program Appeals Committee

The NCGP Appeals Committee considers appeals submitted to the ARC in relation to the NCGP and makes recommendations to the CEO about whether appeals should be allowed or dismissed. This committee also provides general advice to the ARC about modifications and improvements to the ARC's administrative processes. It consists of external members appointed by the CEO.

The 2020 members were Dr K Anderson, Ms E Carroll, Emeritus Professor B Lohmann and Professor M Harding. In 2021 the members were Dr K Anderson, Emeritus Professor B Lohmann, Professor M Harding and Ms S Grady. The NCGP Appeals Committee met twice in 2020–21. Details about the appeals is provided under *Service delivery and complaints handling* on page 86.

National Competitive Grants Program Scrutiny Committee

The NCGP Scrutiny Committee examines the probity of ARC assessment processes for applications submitted by SAC members and/or ARC staff. This committee comprises members appointed by the CEO. The 2020 members were Professor D Sharma, Professor D Siddle, Professor J Fitness and Mr J Withers. In 2021 the members were Professor J Fitness, Professor M Forsyth, Professor P Kluth and Mr J Withers. The NCGP Scrutiny Committee met 3 times in 2020–21.

National Competitive Grants Program Eligibility Committee

The NCGP Eligibility Committee considers all eligibility issues identified for applications submitted under the NCGP. The committee, comprising ARC Executive Directors and the Branch Manager, Policy and Strategy, provides eligibility recommendations to the CEO based on the eligibility criteria set out in the relevant Grant Guidelines.

Medical Research Advisory Group

The ARC's Medical Research Advisory Group (MRAG) is responsible for providing additional technical advice regarding medical eligibility for selected applications under consideration by the NCGP Eligibility Committee. Where the NCGP Eligibility Committee considers that additional expertise is required to determine eligibility, the application is referred to MRAG members for written advice. As of March 2021, each application requiring additional expertise is referred to at least 3 MRAG members for written advice. Previously applications were referred to 2 MRAG members for their written advice. Once this technical advice has been received, the NCGP Eligibility Committee determines medical research eligibility recommendations.

MRAG members may be individuals from current or past ARC College of Experts or candidates with sufficient seniority to have a broad overview of the research sector, with expertise in relevant Fields of Research codes, notably (but not exclusively) biological sciences (06), medical and health sciences (11) and psychology and cognitive sciences (17).

Administration of Excellence in Research for Australia and the Engagement and Impact Assessment

ERA EI Review Advisory Committee

The ARC established an Advisory Committee for the review of ERA and EI in 2020–21. The Committee, comprising experts from government, universities and research end-users, as well as experts in research evaluation, provided advice to the ARC CEO based on their expertise and in response to feedback received through the review consultation process.

Australian Research Integrity Committee

The Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) currently comprises 7 expert members (Table 4) and reports to both the ARC and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

During 2020–21 the ARIC ARC secretariat received 6 requests for review. It also continued consideration of 2 cases related to requests for review that were received in 2019–20. In relation to the 8 ARIC-ARC matters active in 2020–21:

- 2 reviews that commenced prior to 1 July 2020 were finalised and the outcome communicated to the relevant parties by the ARC
- 3 requests for review were determined to be outside the scope of ARIC
- 3 requests for review were determined to be within the scope of ARIC. All 3 were ongoing cases as at 30 June 2021.

TABLE 4: Membership of the Australian Research Integrity Committee, 2020–21

Member	Year of current appointment	Expiry of current appointment
Ms P Kelly (Chair)	April 2020	March 2023
Ms J Hamblin (Deputy Chair)	April 2020	March 2023
Mr M Chilcott	April 2020	March 2023
Emeritus Professor A Lawson	April 2020	March 2023
Professor M Otlowski	April 2020	March 2023
Emeritus Professor J Reid	April 2020	March 2023
Emeritus Professor J Finlay-Jones	April 2020	March 2023

Planning and reporting arrangements

The ARC’s Planning and Reporting Framework is consistent with the requirements of the PGPA Act and the enhanced *Commonwealth Performance Framework*. The ARC Planning and Reporting Framework aims to:

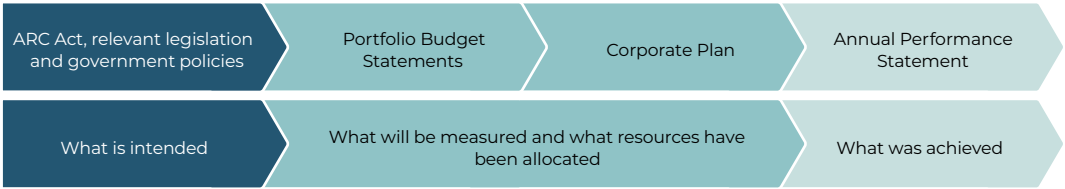
- establish accountabilities for the achievement of the ARC’s purpose
- establish elements for governance reporting to facilitate continual improvement

- ensure all reporting components are fully integrated with other related ARC activities such as risk management
- ensure a clear line-of-sight is established and maintained in governance reporting activities to clearly demonstrate and measure the ARC's performance against its purpose and strategic objectives.

In conjunction with the planning and reporting framework, the ARC's Performance Measurement Framework ensures alignment of the performance criteria published in the ARC's PBS and corporate plan, and the performance outcomes documented in the Annual Performance Statement. Together, these documents provide the ARC's complete and wholistic performance story.

In addition to published performance information, the ARC's Performance Measurement Framework is supported by internal operational planning, monitoring and reporting processes and systems.

FIGURE 8: External planning and reporting framework



During 2020–21 the ARC:

- published the ARC Annual Report 2019–20
- published the ARC Corporate Plan 2020–21.

Internal audit arrangements and risk management

Internal audit

An integral part of the ARC's corporate governance framework is the ARC's internal audit function. Internal audit provides an independent and objective review and advisory service, giving the CEO assurance that the ARC's financial and operational controls, designed to manage the entity's risk and achieve the ARC's objectives, are operating in an efficient, effective, economical and ethical manner. Internal audit also assists management in improving the ARC's business performance.

The ARC's internal audit function is managed by the Head, Internal Audit, who is the Branch Manager, Policy and Strategy. The internal auditor role is outsourced to an independent service provider and reports to the Audit Committee through the Head, Internal Audit. In 2020–21 the

ARC's internal auditor was McGrathNicol Advisory Partnership.

McGrathNicol assisted in the development of an annual internal audit work plan, attended Audit Committee meetings, and completed the following audits during 2020–21:

- Review of NCGP Eligibility Arrangements
- Financial Compliance Review
- Review of the ERA Scrutiny Committee Arrangements.

Risk

Framework

The ARC has implemented risk management with the guidance of the *Commonwealth Risk Management Policy* (RM Policy) that ensures the ARC manages risk in accordance with Section 16 of the PGPA Act. Under the RM Policy, the ARC, as a non-corporate Commonwealth entity, must comply with the 9 elements that contribute to effective risk management.

The ARC's Risk Management Framework (the risk framework) aligns with the RM Policy and is underpinned by an ARC Risk Management Policy, a Risk Management Plan and Toolkit, and is supported across the agency by a network of risk champions. The ARC captures and regularly reviews its risks through its project, operational, fraud and strategic risk registers. The risk framework is designed to minimise the possibility of loss or damage to operations, staff, property, reputation and assets, while recognising opportunities to meet the stated objectives of the entity within a good corporate governance framework.

Contribution of risk management to achieving objectives

The approach to risk management in the ARC forms a comprehensive clear-line-of-sight across the governance and business processes. All staff contribute to and are responsible for risk management as underpinned by the framework.

The SMG established the ARC's 4 key strategic risks for 2020–21 at the outset of the year. A fifth strategic risk was added during SMG's mid-year review of the risks and controls. These reviews have ensured that the ARC's strategic risks remain relevant, controls are operating effectively, and emerging risks that could impact on the ARC achieving its outcomes, priorities and objectives, are also considered.

The ARC reviewed its operational risks and controls in September 2020 and March 2021. This twice-yearly activity is designed to ensure that business areas have a risk approach embedded into processes and planning aimed to deliver against the activities outlined in the corporate and operational plans.

Business continuity and disaster recovery

The ARC's BCP sets out controls and contingencies to minimise the likelihood and/or consequence of any potential risk exposure to the core business processes of the ARC. It includes the ARC's ICT Disaster Recovery Plan (DRP), which is designed to safeguard and recover critical ICT systems.

In 2020–21 the ARC:

- produced a new Business Continuity Plan
- trained Business Continuity Committee (BCC) members on Incident Management
- conducted a desktop scenario disaster recovery incident exercise
- conducted disaster recovery testing in accordance with the DRP
- enhanced data protection capabilities
- held 3 formal meetings of the BCP Committee.

Ethical standards

As a public service agency

The ARC is committed to high ethical standards. This commitment is promoted through:

- the ARC's guiding principles, which include 'accountability through transparent, efficient and effective processes and adherence to ethical standards'
- the incorporation of ethical standards into ARC governance policies and guidelines
- the incorporation of ARC values into performance agreements
- the provision of Ethics, Integrity and Fraud pages on the ARC intranet site, as well as the Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) Ethics Advisory Service, www.apsc.gov.au > *Working in the APS* > *Integrity* > [Ethics Advisory Service](#)
- an ARC Ethics Contact Officer.

The ARC includes an overview and discussion of the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct as part of induction training for new appointees. Regular individual performance reviews provide ongoing opportunities for staff and supervisors to address ethical issues.

The ARC is committed to preserving public confidence in the integrity, legitimacy, impartiality and fairness of its business. ARC committee members and assessors, as well as any individual undertaking ARC business, must comply with the *ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy*, which is available on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > *Policies & Strategies* > *Policy* > [ARC Conflict of Interest and Confidentiality Policy](#).

As a research funding agency

ARC Research Integrity Policy

To safeguard the integrity of the ARC's processes, the *ARC Research Integrity Policy* requires organisations, and in some circumstances individuals, engaged in ARC business to report to the ARC on research integrity matters. This policy outlines actions the ARC may take in response to breaches of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (the Code). It also describes how potential breaches of the Code can be referred to institutions for investigation. The *ARC Research Integrity Policy* is available on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > *Policies and Strategies* > *Research Integrity*.

The ARC was notified of, or identified, 57 new matters relating to actual or potential breaches of the Code or research misconduct in 2020–21. This included matters reported by institutions, as well as concerns identified through ARC business or by members of the public. In addition, 20 matters reported or identified prior to 1 July 2020 were still active or re-opened in 2020–21.

Of the 77 matters that were active in 2020–21, 44 were finalised as at 30 June 2021. This included:

- 22 matters where institutions reported breaches of the Code and the ARC took action in response
- 3 matters where an institution reported a breach of the Code and the ARC determined that no ARC action was required as the breach was minor and the action taken by the institution was considered sufficient
- 9 matters that were dismissed following institutional preliminary assessments or investigations
- 10 matters where preliminary assessments by the relevant institutions were not required as the matters were not within the scope of the policy, or insufficient information was available to provide grounds for proceeding to preliminary assessments.

As at 30 June 2021, 33 active matters were being assessed or investigated by institutions and/or considered by the ARC.

National codes and statements on research ethics

All ARC-funded research projects must adhere to the Code.

In 2020–21 the ARC continued to work with the NHMRC and Universities Australia (UA) to promote research integrity. Further supplementary guidance has been developed to support implementation of the principles and responsibilities in the Code.

Throughout 2020–21 the ARC also worked closely with the NHMRC and other relevant organisations in reviewing the *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013)* and *The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007, updated in 2018)*. All ARC-funded institutions continue to be required to comply with the expectations of the Code. Where applicable, ARC-funded research projects must also comply with:

- *The National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research (2007, updated in 2018)*
- *Ethical Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for researchers and stakeholders (2018)*
- *Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research (2020)*
- *Australian Council for Arts, Protocols for using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts (2020)*
- *Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes (2013, updated 2021).*

Service delivery and complaints handling

The ARC sets out the standards of service clients should expect from the ARC in the *ARC Client Service Charter*.

The *ARC Complaints Handling and Appeals Policy* assists clients to make a general complaint about the ARC or submit an appeal about the administrative processes of the NCGP. In 2020–21 the ARC received:

- one complaint about the ability to add and link into the ARC's Research Management System publications to research applications
- one complaint about an assessor's comments on a research application
- one complaint about the removal of an assessment
- 20 appeals relating to applications submitted for funding under the NCGP, one of which was upheld. Please note, these numbers refer to appeals that received a decision in the 2020–21 reporting period.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH FINANCE LAW

The ARC did not report any significant issues to the Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the PGPA Act that relates to non-compliance with finance law.

JUDICIAL DECISIONS, DECISIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS AND BY THE AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

There were no decisions from any Court during 2020–21 that had, or may have, a significant impact on the operations of the ARC.

There were also no decisions from administrative tribunals or the Office of the Australian Information Commissioner during 2020–21 that had, or may have, a significant impact on the operations of the ARC.

REPORTS ON ARC OPERATIONS BY THE AUDITOR-GENERAL

During 2020–21, the ARC was not directly involved in any performance audits conducted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).

To ensure that the ARC is adhering to best practice, ANAO performance audit reports, recommendations, and key learnings are monitored and disseminated to relevant work areas across the ARC for review and consideration.

EXTERNAL SCRUTINY

During 2020–21, ARC officials appeared before the senate education and employment legislation committee for:

- Supplementary Budget Estimates – October 2020
- Additional Estimates – March 2021
- Supplementary Budget Estimates – May to June 2021.

Reports to parliamentary committees

The ARC provided evidence and/or submissions to 3 parliamentary committee inquiries in 2020–21, outlined in **Table 5**:

TABLE 5: Parliamentary inquiries in 2020–21

Committee	Inquiry
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee	Inquiry into the Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) Bill 2020 and Australia's Foreign Relations (State and Territory Arrangements) (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2020
Parliamentary Joint Committee on Intelligence and Security	Inquiry into national security risks affecting the Australian higher education and research sector
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade References Committee	Inquiry into Funding for public research into foreign policy issues

REPORTS ON ARC OPERATIONS BY THE COMMONWEALTH OMBUDSMAN

During 2020–21 there was one investigation commenced by the Commonwealth Ombudsman's Office into ARC business.

AGENCY CAPABILITY REVIEWS

No capability reviews of the ARC were conducted or released during 2020–21.

INFORMATION ON JUDICIAL DECISIONS AND DECISIONS OF ADMINISTRATIVE TRIBUNALS AND BY THE AUSTRALIAN INFORMATION COMMISSIONER

There were no decisions of any Court during 2020–21 that had, or may have, a significant impact on the operations of the ARC. There were also no decisions, external scrutiny, report on operations, or capability reviews of the ARC from any court, or administrative tribunals, including the Commonwealth Ombudsman that had, or may have, a significant impact on the operations of the ARC.

EFFECTIVENESS IN MANAGING AND DEVELOPING STAFF

Workforce planning, staff retention and turnover

During 2020–21 the ARC reviewed its priorities for the year and the need for staff in particular areas to support those priorities. The ARC maximised opportunities to develop a flexible and responsive workforce by:

- providing opportunities for staff to work on cross-agency projects
- resourcing the new grant services program
- providing changes to workplace arrangements in response to COVID-19
- enabling staff rotations to support staff development
- encouraging staff to assist with NCGP and ERA processes during peak periods of activity
- providing targeted training opportunities
- providing opportunities to work at higher levels during staff absences
- ensuring relevant knowledge management and sharing processes were in place.

In 2020–21 staff turnover figures were higher than in the previous year, with 22 separations recorded compared to 14 in 2019–20. Of the 22 separations, 10 were for career opportunities inside or outside the APS.

Employment agreements

During 2020–21 the ARC employed non-Senior Executive Service (SES) staff under the following arrangements:

- **ARC Enterprise Agreement 2017–2020:** Under this agreement ARC employees receive a productivity salary increase of 2% upon commencement of the agreement, 2% after 12 months, and 2% after 24 months service
- **Individual Flexibility Arrangements (IFAs):** Employees covered by the ARC Enterprise Agreement 2017–2020 may agree to make an IFA to vary the effect of terms of the agreement. IFAs within the ARC generally deal with retention allowances or remuneration, allowing the CEO to ensure the employment conditions of specialised employees reflect market forces and experience.

In March 2020, the CEO signed a Section 24 Determination to extend the current Enterprise Agreement for a further 3 years.

Training and development

ARC training and development activities are conducted within the framework of the agency's Learning and Development Strategy. This strategy aims to equip ARC staff with appropriate training opportunities to ensure the agency has access to the skills and knowledge required to achieve its objectives.

In 2020–21 the ARC's People and Services Section coordinated access to a range of training opportunities including eLearning, in-house training, and external opportunities such as coaching and studies assistance.

In-house training

During the year, all employees were required to undertake mandatory eLearning modules. These modules included:

- Cultural Awareness
- Fraud Awareness
- Holding your Team Accountable
- National Research and Innovation System in Australia - ARMS
- Performance Conversations – Guidance for a Quality Exchange
- Security Awareness
- Setting Team and Employee Goals – using SMART Technology
- Work Health and Safety.

In 2020–21 all new starters to the ARC participated in the APSC's APS Induction Portal trial.

The ARC also provided staff with access to a range of further training opportunities, including:

- A practical guide to Managing Incidents
- Work Health and Safety Responsibilities for Supervisors
- Aboriginal insights: Cultural Foundations for Workplaces – Empowering Respect and Relationships
- Bullying and Harassment Training
- Career coaching
- Crisis and Incident Management
- Developing your Career
- Due Diligence for Senior Management
- Management in Action
- Understanding Government
- Work Health and Safety for Workers
- Work Health and Safety Performance.

The ARC's Workplace Health and Safety (WHS) arrangements, provided in accordance with Schedule 2, Part 4 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act), are reported in

Appendix 4.

Productivity gains

During 2020–21 the ARC continued to review its procedures to streamline administrative processes and systems for ARC staff and NCGP, ERA and EI stakeholders. In addition, the ARC:

- streamlined NCGP application forms, including ensuring text for both Discovery and Linkage schemes was consistent
- enhanced the automated population of research output data, Fields of Research codes and foreign funding and affiliation questions into NCGP application forms
- improved functionality and automation for eligibility management in NCGP application forms
- improved functionality and implementation of 'Request Not to Assess' processes in RMS
- introduced establishment toolkits to assist new cohorts of ARC CoE and the ITRH schemes
- streamlined assessment of Major Investments' annual progress reports to reduce processing time
- introduced notification and dashboard functionality in RMS for pre-award processes
- accepted recommendations of the ERA and EI review to streamline the data collection and submission process for universities participating in future rounds of ERA and EI.

Diversity

The ARC Workforce Diversity Program provides the framework for a number of diversity plans and policies including the *Multicultural Access and Equity Plan*, *Discrimination and Harassment-Free Workplace Policy* and *ARC Reconciliation Action Plan*.

In the 2020 APS Census, 93% of staff believed that the ARC supports and actively promotes an inclusive workplace culture.

In 2020–21 the ARC:

- enabled several staff to attend Aboriginal insights: Engaging with Aboriginal communities training
- discussed diversity, and assessed agency outcomes, through the ARC Diversity Working Group's Diversity Program
- required all staff to take part in online National Reconciliation Week activities
- participated in National Aborigines and Islanders Day Observance Committee week activities
- publicised R U OK? Day to raise awareness of the importance of meaningful conversations with colleagues to foster mental health
- continued to encourage use of the Employee Assistance Program
- participated in 'Wear it Purple Day' morning tea to foster supportive, safe and accepting environments for the young LGBTIQ+ community.

STAFF STATISTICS

Overview

TABLE 6: All ongoing employees, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	41	2	43	71	20	91	0	0	0	134
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	41	3	44	71	20	91	0	0	0	135

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 7: All non-ongoing employees, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	1	0	1	7	0	7	0	0	0	8
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	7	0	7	0	0	0	8

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 8: All ongoing employees, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	37	2	39	74	22	96	0	0	0	135
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Total	37	3	40	74	22	96	0	0	0	136

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 9: All non-ongoing employees, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	1	0	1	8	2	10	0	0	0	11
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	8	2	10	0	0	0	11

Note: CEO is not included in this table

Gender

TABLE 10: Number of ongoing employees by gender, current reporting period
(as at 30 June 2021)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
EL 2	9	1	10	9	2	11	0	0	0	21
EL 1	16	2	18	18	4	22	0	0	0	40
APS 6	9	1	10	21	7	28	0	0	0	38
APS 5	3	0	3	16	5	21	0	0	0	24
APS 4	3	0	3	4	1	5	0	0	0	8
APS 3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	40	4	44	71	20	91	0	0	0	135

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 11: Number of non-ongoing employees by gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
EL 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 6	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
APS 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 4	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 3	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	7	0	7	0	0	0	8

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 12: Number of ongoing employees by gender, previous reporting period
(as at 30 June 2020)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SES 1	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
EL 2	10	0	10	9	2	11	0	0	0	21
EL 1	11	0	11	18	6	24	0	0	0	35
APS 6	10	1	11	25	8	33	0	0	0	44
APS 5	2	2	4	14	5	19	0	0	0	23
APS 4	3	0	3	4	1	5	0	0	0	8
APS 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	37	3	40	74	22	96	0	0	0	136

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 13: Number of non-ongoing employees by gender, previous reporting period
(as at 30 June 2020)

	Male			Female			Indeterminate			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
EL 1	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
APS 6	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
APS 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 4	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	3
APS 3	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1
APS 2	0	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	8	2	10	0	0	0	11

Note: CEO is not included in this tab

Full-time/part-time employment arrangements

TABLE 14: Employees by full-time and part-time status, current reporting period
(as at 30 June 2021)

	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
EL 2	19	2	21	2	0	2	23
EL 1	34	6	40	3	0	3	43
APS 6	30	8	38	0	0	0	38
APS 5	19	5	24	0	0	0	24
APS 4	7	1	8	1	0	1	9
APS 3	0	1	1	2	0	2	3
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	112	23	135	8	0	8	143

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 15: Employees by full-time and part-time status, previous reporting period
(as at 30 June 2020)

	Ongoing			Non-Ongoing			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
SES 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	1
SES 1	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
EL 2	19	2	21	1	0	1	22
EL 1	29	8	37	1	1	2	39
APS 6	35	9	44	3	0	3	47
APS 5	16	5	21	0	0	0	21
APS 4	7	1	8	3	0	3	11
APS 3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 2	1	0	1	1	1	2	3
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	111	25	136	9	2	11	147

Note: CEO is not included in this table

Location

TABLE 16: Employment type by location, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing	Total
NSW	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
ACT	131	11	142
NT	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0
Overseas	1	0	1
Total	132	11	143

Note: CEO is not included in this table

TABLE 17: Employment type by location, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)

	Ongoing	Non-Ongoing	Total
NSW	0	0	0
QLD	0	0	0
SA	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0
ACT	135	11	146
NT	0	0	0
External Territories	0	0	0
Overseas	1	0	1
Total	136	11	147

Note: CEO is not included in this table

Indigenous employment

TABLE 18: Indigenous employment, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	Total
Ongoing	2
Non-Ongoing	3
Total	5

TABLE 19: Indigenous employment, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)

	Total
Ongoing	1
Non-Ongoing	3
Total	4

EMPLOYMENT ARRANGEMENTS

Number of staff by employment arrangement

TABLE 20: Employment arrangements, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	SES	Non-SES	Total
ARC Enterprise Agreement	0	140	140
Individual Flexibility Arrangements (IFAs)	0	16	16
Common Law Contract	3	0	3
Total	3	140	143

Note: The total number of agreements is higher than the total workforce as staff with IFAs are also covered by the ARC Enterprise Agreement.

Salary ranges

TABLE 21: Employment salary ranges by classification level, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)

	Minimum Salary (\$)	Maximum Salary (\$)
SES 3	–	–
SES 2	230,000	250,000
SES 1	170,000	229,380
EL 2	123,845	176,868
EL 1	103,215	145,656
APS 6	80,812	95,000
APS 5	72,989	79,405
APS 4	67,185	70,999
APS 3	59,763	63,154
APS 2	53,512	58,133
APS 1	49,500	50,766
Other	–	–
Total (Minimum/Maximum)	49,500	250,000

Note: CEO is not included in this table

Performance pay

The ARC does not provide performance pay or performance-based bonuses.

Non-salary benefits

The ARC offered a range of non-salary benefits to employees in 2020–21 including:

- flu vaccinations
- a healthy lifestyle allowance
- superannuation advice
- access to salary packaging arrangements
- access to the Employee Assistance Program.

Senior executive service remuneration

Terms and conditions for ARC SES staff are set out by common law contracts. As at 30 June 2021 there were 3 common law contracts in place for ARC SES staff.

Remuneration is reviewed annually taking into account the individual's personal skills, knowledge, experience and capabilities as well as achievements against goals set in the preceding performance cycle.

At 30 June 2021 the notional salary range for SES Band 1 and Band 2 officers was between \$170,000 and \$250,000. Further information about the ARC's remuneration of key management personnel is provided in **Table 22**.

TABLE 22: Information about remuneration for key management personnel, 2020–21

Name	Position title	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefit (\$)	Total remuneration (\$)
		Base salary (\$)	Bonuses (\$)	Other benefits and allowances (\$)	Annual leave (\$)	Superannuation contributions (\$)	Long service leave (\$)	Other long-term benefits (\$)		
Sue Thomas	Chief Executive Officer	408,831	0	0	32,309	72,551	10,562	0	0	524,253
Tony Willis	Executive General Manager	138,441	0	20,895	14,696	35,768	4,129	0	236,470	450,399
Kylie Emery	Branch Manager	182,038	0	22,014	17,722	43,289	6,931	0	0	271,994
Julija Deleva	Branch Manager	183,257	0	22,014	15,471	37,775	5,057	0	0	263,574
Sarah Howard	Branch Manager	191,164	0	22,014	15,471	37,792	5,055	0	0	271,496
Kathie Dent	Ag Branch Manager	55,996	0	6,739	4,209	10,281	1,409	0	0	78,634
Leah McKenzie	Ag Branch Manager	56,186	0	7,059	1,732	7,328	1,248	0	0	73,553
Total		1,215,913	0	100,735	101,610	244,784	34,391	0	236,470	1,933,903

Note: The 2 additional key management personnel (KMP) this financial year are the result of long-term acting. The salary reported is only for the period in which the persons acted in the KMP role.

TABLE 23: Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff

Total remuneration bands	Number of other highly paid staff	Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits		Other long-term benefits		Termination benefit (\$)	Total remuneration (\$)
		Average base salary (\$)	Average bonuses (\$)	Average other benefits and allowances (\$)	Annual leave (\$)	Average superannuation contributions (\$)	Average long service leave (\$)	Average other long-term benefits (\$)	Average termination benefits	Average total remuneration
\$230,001–\$245,000	1	182,565	0	22,264	13,797	30,146	-17,178	0	0	231,594
\$245,001–\$270,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
\$270,001–\$295,000	1	202,681	0	22,264	16,997	39,020	5,560	0	0	286,522
\$295,001–\$320,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Table 23 does not include staff already recognised in Table 22. The ARC had no Senior Executive during 2020–21 that have not already been recognised as KMP.

The ARC does not have any significant asset holdings.

The ARC's assets include office fit out, furniture, IT software and 'portable and attractive' equipment (such as laptops and mobile phones) held at the ARC office.

The ARC reviews its asset holdings annually to ensure cost effectiveness and whole-of-life utilisation. The ARC conducted its annual stocktake in March 2021 and also undertook a full valuation of its assets as at the end of the financial year.

The ARC's approach to purchasing is consistent with the *Commonwealth Procurement Rules* and the PGPA Act, which regulate how agencies govern and undertake procurement. Detailed policies and procedures relating to procurement are also outlined in the *ARC Chief Executive Instructions* and specific policy and procedure guides (such as those for travel and use of Commonwealth credit cards). All policies and procedures are reviewed periodically and updated as required.

The Finance Section is responsible for procurement within the ARC. Finance Section staff provide information and training about procurement policies and procedures as required.

The ARC publishes information on proposed procurements in the *Annual Procurement Plan—Australian Research Council*, available on the AusTender website, www.tenders.gov.au > *Planned Procurements* > [List By Agency](#). This plan gives potential suppliers early notice of significant planned procurements for the coming year. All procurements over \$10,000 are published on the AusTender website.

EXPENDITURE FOR CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS

During 2020–21 the ARC entered into 147 new consultancy contracts involving total actual expenditure of \$0.479 million (inclusive of Goods and Services Tax [GST]). In addition, 207 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$1.036 million (inclusive of GST). A summary of the ARC's engagements with consultants for 2020–21 is provided in **Table 24 and 25**.

TABLE 24: Expenditure on consultancy contracts 2020–21

	Number	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	147	\$0.479 million
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	207	\$1.036 million
Total	354	\$1.515 million

Notes: The contract numbers are as per all consultancy contracts that have been entered into not just those that are reportable on AusTender. The number of ongoing contracts is all active consultancy contracts as at 30 June 2021 that were entered into prior to the 2020–21 period. The expenditure on consultancy contracts represents the actual cash expenditure during the period for the contracts detailed but does not include any accrued expenses.

TABLE 25: Organisations consultancy contract expenditure 2020–21

Name of Organisation	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.)
The University of Melbourne – 84 002 706 224	\$429,474
Macquarie University – 90 952 801 237	\$265,860
McGrathNicol Advisory Partnership – 34 824 776 937	\$166,320
University of Queensland – 63 942 912 684	\$125,020
University of Newcastle – 15 736 576 735	\$83,564

Notes: The expenditure above is the top 5 consultancy expenditures during 2020–21 by organisation. This may cover multiple contracts and contracts that are no longer active as at 30 June 2021.

Annual Reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website, www.tenders.gov.au.

POLICY ON SELECTION AND ENGAGEMENT FOR CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS

The ARC’s policy on selecting and engaging consultants is set out in the *ARC Chief Executive Instructions* and in related procurement instructions and guidance material.

The ARC engages consultants in accordance with the PGPA Act, including the Commonwealth Procurement Rule and relevant internal policies. Consultants are primarily for independent research or assessment, or where specialist skill or expertise is required. Consultants are engaged through a merit selection or procurement process. The majority of the ARC’s consultancy expenditure relates to the engagement of independent members for selection and evaluation committees.

Consultancy services are distinguished from other contracts for services by the nature of the work performed, which typically involves the development of an intellectual output that assists with agency decision-making and reflects the independent views of the service provider.

EXPENDITURE FOR NON-CONSULTANCY CONTRACTS

During 2020–21 the ARC entered into 46 new non-consultancy contracts involving total actual expenditure of \$4.639 million (inclusive of Goods and Services Tax [GST]). In addition, 47 ongoing non-consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$1.911 million (inclusive of GST). A summary of the ARC’s engagements with non-consultants for 2020–21 is provided in **Table 26 and 27**.

TABLE 26: Expenditure on non-consultancy contracts 2020–21

	Number	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.)
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	46	\$4.639 million
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period	47	\$1.911 million
Total	93	\$6.550 million

Notes: The contract numbers are as per all non-consultancy contracts that have been entered into not just those that are reportable on AusTender. The number of ongoing contracts is all active non-consultancy contracts as at 30 June 2021 that were entered into prior to the 2020–21 period. The expenditure on non-consultancy contracts represents the actual cash expenditure during the period for the contracts detailed but does not include any accrued expenses.

TABLE 27: Organisations non-consultancy contract expenditure 2020–21

Name of Organisation	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.)
Jones Lang La Salle – 69 008 585 260	\$2,389,704
QIRX Pty Ltd – 62 092 934 659	\$394,090
Enable Software – 62 085 051 216	\$377,175
Technology One – 84 010 487 180	\$338,338
DFP Recruitment Services – 66 394 749 447	\$276,373

Notes: The expenditure above is the top 5 non-consultancy expenditures during 2020–21 by organisation. This may cover multiple contracts and contracts that are no longer active as at 30 June 2021.

Annual Reports contain information about actual expenditure on non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of contracts is available on the AusTender website, www.tenders.gov.au.

AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL AUDIT OFFICE (ANAO) ACCESS CLAUSES

The ARC is required to provide details of any contract let during the reporting period of \$100,000 or more (inclusive of GST) that does not provide for the Auditor-General to have access to the contractor's premises. The ARC must include the name of the contractor, the purpose and value of the contract, and the reason for not including standard access clauses in the contract.

The ARC did not have any contracts over \$100,000 that did not provide for the Auditor-General to have access to the contractor's premises.

EXEMPT CONTRACTS

The ARC CEO did not exempt any contracts from publication on the AusTender website during the reporting period.

The ARC supports small business participation in the Australian Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance website, www.finance.gov.au > *Procurement* > [Statistics](#).

The ARC recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury's website, treasury.gov.au > Home > [Small Business](#).

The ARC employs a number of procurement practices to support SMEs including:

- use of standard contract templates with clear and simple language
- use of electronic payment systems to facilitate on-time payment
- encouraging credit card use to expedite payments
- utilising Supply Nation, a non-profit organisation established to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business sector by promoting supplier diversity in Australia
- reporting against the *Indigenous Procurement Policy* on the number of contracts, contract values and expenditure for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SMEs.

GRANT PROGRAMS

GrantConnect is the Australian Government's whole-of-government, centralised, web-based grant information system. All non-corporate Commonwealth entities, including the ARC, must publish on GrantConnect to meet requirements under the Commonwealth Grants Rules and Guidelines. GrantConnect is the authoritative source of information in relation to Australian Government Grant Opportunities and Grant Guidelines, including for all schemes under the NCGP. Further information can be found on the GrantConnect website, www.grants.gov.au.

Information on grants awarded by the ARC during the period 2020–21 is available on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > Grants > [Grant Outcomes](#). The ARC also provides access to NCGP data through ARC Grants Search, which forms part of the agency's Data Portal, www.arc.gov.au > Grants > [Grants Dataset](#).

ANNUAL STATEMENT OF COMPLIANCE

The ARC is committed to child safety through the implementation of the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations and the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

As an organisation, the ARC and its staff do not have interactions with children as part of its standard operations.

Third parties funded through the NCGP may involve research which engages with children.

A risk assessment of child safety was undertaken by the ARC in 2020–21 that determined the ARC's risk assessment rating is LOW.

The key risks for the ARC are:

- the ARC, its staff and persons engaged outside of the APS are non-compliant with the National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- ARC eligible organisations non-compliant with the National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- ARC funded projects and researchers are non-compliant with the principles of the National Statement of Principles for Child Safe Organisations.

The ARC undertakes a range of actions to address these risks including:

- additional training for ARC staff on the CCSF
- inclusion of child safety clauses in ARC Grant Agreements
- annual assurance of compliance from grant recipients.

The ARC is compliant with each of the 4 requirements of the CCSF.

In 2020–21:

- all new staff undertook CCSF training as part of induction processes
- annual assurances were received from third party grantees regarding compliance with the CCSF during the period 2020–21.

DISABILITY REPORTING MECHANISM

From 1994 Australian Government departments and agencies reported on their performance as policy adviser, purchaser, employer, regulator and provider under the *Commonwealth Disability Strategy*. In 2007–08, reporting on the employer role was transferred to the APSC's State of the Service reports and the APS Statistical Bulletin. From 2010–11 entities have not been required to report on these functions.

The *Commonwealth Disability Strategy* has been replaced by the *National Disability Strategy 2010–2020*, which sets out a 10-year national policy framework to improve the lives of people with disability, promote participation and create a more inclusive society. A high-level, two-yearly report will track progress against each of the 6 outcome areas of the strategy and present a picture of how people with disability are faring. The Progress Report to the Council of Australian Governments 2016 can be found at the Department of Social Services website, www.dss.gov.au > Our Responsibilities > Disability and Carers > Supporting People with Disability > [Resources](#). Disability reporting is included the APSC's State of the Service reports and the APS Statistical Bulletin. These reports are available at www.apsc.gov.au.

Web versions of the ARC Annual Report 2020–21 conform with WCAG 2.1 AA accessibility requirements.

INFORMATION PUBLICATION SCHEME

Entities subject to the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* (FOI Act) are required to publish information for the public as part of the Information Publication Scheme (IPS). In compliance with Part II of the FOI Act, information relating to the IPS is published on the ARC website, www.arc.gov.au > About > Privacy and Information > [Information Publication Scheme](#).

CORRECTION OF INFORMATION PUBLISHED IN PREVIOUS ANNUAL REPORTS

No significant errors have been identified within the ARC Annual Report 2019–20.

PART 05

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

5.1	Independent auditor's report	113
5.2	Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer	116
5.3	Australian Research Council financial report	117



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Education and Youth

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Research Council (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2021:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015*; and
- (b) present fairly the financial position of the Entity as at 30 June 2021 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended.

The financial statements of the Entity, which I have audited, comprise the following as at 30 June 2021 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority and Chief Financial Officer;
- Statement of Comprehensive Income;
- Statement of Financial Position;
- Statement of Changes in Equity;
- Cash Flow Statement;
- Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income;
- Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities;
- Administered Reconciliation Schedule;
- Administered Cash Flow Statement; and
- Notes to the financial statements, comprising a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Basis for opinion

I conducted my audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Australian Auditing Standards. My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Entity in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements for financial statement audits conducted by the Auditor-General and his delegates. These include the relevant independence requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (including Independence Standards)* (the Code) to the extent that they are not in conflict with the *Auditor-General Act 1997*. I have also fulfilled my other responsibilities in accordance with the Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Accountable Authority's responsibility for the financial statements

As the Accountable Authority of the Entity, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible under the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (the Act) for the preparation and fair presentation of annual financial statements that comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Reduced Disclosure Requirements and the rules made under the Act. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for such internal control as the Chief Executive Officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, the Chief Executive Officer is responsible for assessing the ability of the Entity to continue as a going concern, taking into account whether the Entity's operations will cease as a result

GPO Box 707, Canberra ACT 2601
38 Sydney Avenue, Forrest ACT 2603
Phone (02) 6203 7300

of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Chief Executive Officer is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the assessment indicates that it is not appropriate.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

My objective is to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian National Audit Office Auditing Standards, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Entity's internal control;
- evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Accountable Authority;
- conclude on the appropriateness of the Accountable Authority's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Entity to cease to continue as a going concern; and
- evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

I communicate with the Accountable Authority regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

Australian National Audit Office



Rebecca Reilly
Executive Director
Delegate of the Auditor-General
Canberra
06 September 2021

CONTENTS

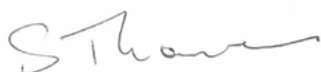
Certification	116
Primary financial statement	117
Statement of Comprehensive Income	117
Statement of Financial Position	118
Statement of Changes in Equity	119
Cash Flow Statement	121
Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income	122
Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities	123
Administered Reconciliation Schedule	124
Administered Cash Flow Statement	125
Overview	128
Notes to the financial statements:	130
1. Departmental Financial Performance	130
1.1 Expenses	130
1.2 Own-Source Revenue and gains	132
2. Income and Expenses Administered on Behalf of Government	134
2.1 Administered - Expenses	134
2.2 Administered - Income	135
3. Departmental Financial Position	136
3.1 Financial Assets	136
3.2 Non-Financial Assets	137
3.3 Payables	141
3.4 Interest Bearing Liabilities	142
3.5 Other Provisions	143
4. Assets and Liabilities Administered on Behalf of Government	144
4.1 Administered - Financial Assets	144
4.2 Administered - Non-Financial Assets	145
4.3 Administered - Payables	146
4.4 Restatement of Prior Period Disclosure	147
5. Funding	148
5.1 Appropriations	148
5.2 Special Accounts	151
5.3 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements	152
6. People and relationships	153
6.1 Employee Provisions	153
6.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration	154
6.3 Related Party Disclosures	155
7. Managing uncertainties	156
7.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities	156
7.2 Financial Instruments	157
7.3 Administered - Financial Instruments	159
7.4 Fair Value Measurement	160
8. Other information	161
8.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities	161

Australian Research Council

STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2021 comply with subsection 42(2) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), and are based on properly maintained financial records as per subsection 41(2) of the PGPA Act.

In our opinion, at the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Australian Research Council (ARC) will be able to pay its debts as and when they fall due.



Sue Thomas
Chief Executive Officer

6 September 2021



Luke Cattle
Chief Financial Officer

6 September 2021

Australian Research Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income

for the period ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits ¹	1.1A	17,289	16,961	16,694
Suppliers	1.1B	2,957	2,828	2,766
Depreciation and amortisation	3.2A	5,010	4,494	4,563
Finance costs	1.1C	354	459	314
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	79	15	-
Total expenses		25,689	24,757	24,337
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers ²	1.2A	1,142	-	-
Other revenue	1.2B	64	61	60
Total own-source revenue		1,206	61	60
Gains				
Gains from sale of assets		30	-	-
Total gains		30	-	-
Total own-source income		1,236	61	60
Net cost of services		(24,453)	(24,696)	(24,277)
Revenue from Government	1.2C	21,309	21,226	21,309
Deficit on continuing operations		(3,144)	(3,470)	(2,968)

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statements.

Australian Research Council
Statement of Financial Position

as at 30 June 2021

		2021	2020	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	675	811	811
Trade and other receivables ³	3.1B	18,115	19,551	19,235
Total financial assets		18,790	20,362	20,046
Non-financial assets*				
Buildings	3.2A	8,902	10,640	9,027
Plant and equipment ⁴	3.2A	990	910	406
Computer software	3.2A	8,764	9,413	8,268
Prepayments	3.2B	213	209	209
Total non-financial assets		18,869	21,172	17,910
Total assets		37,659	41,534	37,956
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.3A	499	543	543
Other payables	3.3B	317	266	330
Total payables		816	809	873
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	3.4A	9,332	11,266	9,358
Total interest bearing liabilities		9,332	11,266	9,358
Provisions				
Employee provisions	6.1A	5,454	5,605	5,605
Other provisions	3.5A	559	387	387
Total provisions		6,013	5,992	5,992
Total liabilities		16,161	18,067	16,223
Net assets		21,498	23,467	21,733
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		39,973	38,739	39,974
Reserves		17	76	75
Accumulated deficit		(18,492)	(15,348)	(18,316)
Total equity		21,498	23,467	21,733

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statement.

* Right-of-use assets are included in the following line items: Buildings and Plant and equipment.

Australian Research Council
Statement of Changes in Equity

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020	Original Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	38,739	37,301	38,740
Transactions with owners			
Contributions by owners			
Departmental capital budget	1,234	1,438	1,234
Total transactions with owners	1,234	1,438	1,234
Closing balance as at 30 June	39,973	38,739	39,974
RETAINED EARNINGS			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	(15,348)	(13,686)	(15,348)
Adjustment on initial application of AASB 16	-	1,808	-
Adjusted opening balance	(15,348)	(11,878)	(15,348)
Comprehensive income			
Deficit for the period	(3,144)	(3,470)	(2,968)
Total comprehensive income	(3,144)	(3,470)	(2,968)
Closing balance as at 30 June	(18,492)	(15,348)	(18,316)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	76	43	75
Asset Revaluation			
Change in the measurement of provision to make good	(89)	33	-
Change in asset value on revaluation	30	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June	17	76	75

Australian Research Council
Statement of Changes in Equity (continued)

for the period ended 30 June 2021

	2021	2020	Original Budget
	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
TOTAL EQUITY			
Opening balance			
Balance carried forward from previous period	23,467	23,658	23,467
Adjustment on initial application of AASB 16	-	1,808	-
Adjusted opening balance	23,467	25,466	23,467
Comprehensive income			
Deficit for the period	(3,144)	(3,470)	(2,968)
Total comprehensive income	(3,144)	(3,470)	(2,968)
Asset Revaluation			
Change in the measurement of provision to make good	(89)	33	-
Change in asset value on revaluation	30	-	-
Total Asset Revaluation	(59)	33	-
Transactions with owners			
Distributions to owners			
Contributions by owners			
Departmental capital budget	1,234	1,438	1,234
Total transactions with owners	1,234	1,438	1,234
Closing balance as at 30 June	21,498	23,467	21,733

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statement.

Accounting Policy

Departmental Capital Budgets

Amounts appropriated which are designated as Departmental Capital Budgets (DCBs) are recognised directly in contributed equity in that year.

Australian Research Council

Cash Flow Statement

for the period ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		22,587	21,793	22,820
Sale of goods and rendering of services		1,142	-	-
GST received		690	547	652
Other		90	78	-
Total cash received		24,509	22,418	23,472
Cash used				
Employees		17,620	16,184	16,630
Suppliers		2,939	2,800	2,706
Interest payments on lease liabilities		351	454	314
GST paid		693	684	652
Section 74 receipts transferred to OPA		1,139	-	-
Total cash used		22,742	20,122	20,302
Net cash from operating activities		1,767	2,296	3,170
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Proceeds from sales of property, plant and equipment		47	-	-
Total cash received		47	-	-
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		713	598	2,496
Purchase of intangibles		1,978	1,793	-
Total cash used		2,691	2,391	2,496
Net cash used by investing activities		(2,644)	(2,391)	(2,496)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Contributed equity ⁵		2,675	2,391	1,234
Total cash received		2,675	2,391	1,234
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		1,934	1,847	1,908
Total cash used		1,934	1,847	1,908
Net cash from/(used by) financing activities		741	544	(674)
Net increase/(decrease) in cash held		(136)	449	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		811	362	811
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	3.1A	675	811	811

The above statement should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statement.

Australian Research Council
Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Suppliers ¹	2.1A	3,441	3,560	5,878
Grants ²	2.1B	771,248	779,317	808,244
Total expenses		774,689	782,877	814,122
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Other revenue	2.2A	9,375	10,066	9,500
Total non-taxation revenue		9,375	10,066	9,500
Total revenue		9,375	10,066	9,500
Total income		9,375	10,066	9,500
Net cost of services		(765,314)	(772,811)	(804,622)
Deficit		(765,314)	(772,811)	(804,622)
Total comprehensive loss		(765,314)	(772,811)	(804,622)

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statements.

Australian Research Council
Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities

as at 30 June 2021

		2021	2020	Original
			(Restated)*	Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents ³	4.1A	2,426	1,030	1,031
Trade and other receivables	4.1B	224	279	278
Total financial assets		2,650	1,309	1,309
Non-financial assets				
Prepayments	4.2A	115	118	118
Total non-financial assets		115	118	118
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		2,765	1,427	1,427
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Grants ⁴	4.3A	247,246	194,024	196,067
Other payables ⁵	4.3B	531	153	153
Total payables		247,777	194,177	196,220
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		247,777	194,177	196,220
Net liabilities		(245,012)	(192,750)	(194,793)

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statement.

* see note 4.4 for additional detail regarding Restatement of Prior Period Balances.

Australian Research Council
Administered Reconciliation Schedule
for the period ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
			(Restated)*
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July		(192,750)	(181,077)
Adjustment for errors		-	1,807
Adjusted opening assets less liabilities		(192,750)	(179,269)
Net (cost of)/contribution by services			
Income		9,375	10,066
Expenses		(774,689)	(782,877)
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government			
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account			
Annual appropriations	5.1A	5,851	7,179
Special appropriations (limited)	5.1C	716,492	762,541
Administered GST Appropriations to OPA		572	649
Appropriation transfers to OPA			
Appropriations		(9,226)	(10,255)
Return of GST Appropriations to OPA		(637)	(784)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		(245,012)	(192,750)

The above schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statement.

* see note 4.4 for additional detail regarding Restatement of Prior Period Balances.

Accounting Policy

Administered Cash Transfers to and from the Official Public Account

Revenue collected by the entity for use by the Government rather than the entity is administered revenue. Collections are transferred to the Official Public Account (OPA) maintained by the Department of Finance. Conversely, cash is drawn from the OPA to make payments under Parliamentary appropriation on behalf of Government. These transfers to and from the OPA are adjustments to the administered cash held by the entity on behalf of the Government and reported as such in the schedule of administered cash flows and in the administered reconciliation schedule.

Australian Research Council
Administered Cash Flow Statement
for the period ended 30 June 2021

		2021	2020
			(Restated)*
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
GST received		637	784
Other		9,494	10,255
Total cash received		10,131	11,039
Cash used			
Suppliers		3,060	3,495
Grants		718,155	767,002
GST paid		572	649
Total cash used		721,787	771,146
Net cash used by operating activities		(711,656)	(760,107)
Cash from Official Public Account			
Appropriations		722,343	769,720
Administered GST Appropriation		572	649
Total cash from official public account		722,915	770,369
Cash to Official Public Account			
Appropriations		9,226	10,255
Return of GST Appropriation to OPA		637	784
Total cash to official public account		9,863	11,039
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		1,030	1,807
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4.1A	2,426	1,030

This schedule should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

The footnotes link to the budget variance commentary which follows the primary financial statement.

* see note 4.4 for additional detail regarding Restatement of Prior Period Balances.

Budget Variances

The following commentary provides a high-level commentary of major variances between the original budget as published in Education, Skills and Employment 2020-21 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2020-21 actuals. Note the Budget is not audited.

Departmental and Administered variances are considered to be major based on the following criteria:

- the variance between original budget and actual is greater than \$0.5 million and 10% of the line item; or
- an item below this threshold is considered important for the reader's understanding or is relevant to an assessment of the ARC's performance.

Explanation of major variances	Variance to Budget		Affected line items
	Variance to Budget	%	
	\$'000		
Departmental			
1. Employee benefits - employee benefits expenses are higher than budgeted. This can be linked to the ARC providing grant services. Grant services revenue and expenditure was not budgeted for when the Portfolio Budget Statements were derived so the budget was understated compared to actuals.	595	4%	Expenses - Employee benefits Consequential Impacts Liabilities - Employee provisions Cashflow - Employees
2. Revenue from contracts with customers - during 2020-21 the ARC entered into 3 arrangements for the delivery of grant services. At the time the budget was derived the agreements had not been entered into and as such were not include in the original budget derivation.	1,142	100%	Revenue - Contracts with customers Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Sale of Goods and Services
3. Trade and other receivables - the majority of the variance arose due to the timing of when departmental budgets were prepared. When the budget was prepared the opening receivable was assumed to have a balance of \$20.7 million and this would reduce by \$1.5 million during 2020-21 to \$19.2 million. Upon finalisation of the 2019-20 accounts the actual opening balance was \$19.6 million. So the variance between the budget and actual can be explained by this difference. That is, if the budget was adjusted to take into account effects of the prior financial year the estimated closing position would have been \$18.1 million (\$19.6 million less \$1.5 million).	-1,120	-6%	Assets - Trade and other receivables
4. Plant and equipment - the budget for property and equipment was understated because assets recognised in 2019-20, new laptops, were inadvertently not recognised in the budget opening position and the budget for 2020-21 did not include expenditure for new server equipment because it was initially envisaged it would be a cloud based solution and therefore budgeted as an expense.	584	144%	Assets - Plant and Equipment Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Purchase of Property Plant and Equipment
5. Contributed equity - the Contributed Equity budget was understated. There was an error in the budget derivation. It only included the current year DCB appropriation but it should have also included use of prior year unspent funds as well.	1,441	117%	Assets - Computer software Cashflow - Purchase of Intangibles Cashflow - Contributed equity

Note negative numbers indicate that the actual is less than budget.

Explanation of major variances	Variance to Budget		Variance to Budget	Affected line items
	\$'000	%		
Administered				
1. Suppliers - the supplier underspend against budget is mainly attributable to the Excellence in Research for Australia program (ERA), \$2.1 million. ERA expenditure fluctuates in line with when ERA and Engagement and Impact (EI) assessment rounds are conducted. The next rounds are to run in 2023 for ERA and 2024 for EI. The remainder of the variance relates to Linkage program, due to COVID, committees have had to hold peer review meetings online and major investments reviews have been conducted via desktop which has resulted in savings in travel costs.	-2,437	-41%	Expenses - Suppliers Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Suppliers	
2. Grants - grant expenses are under budget due to a number of factors. The update to the funding caps in the ARC Act occurred at the end of May 2021. Consequently the grant commitments had to be \$17.2 million less than budgeted. There was also a delay in the commencement of grants relating to the Industrial Transformation Research Program causing an under-expenditure of \$15.0 million and there was an under-expenditure relating to the Linkage Projects scheme.	-36,996	-5%	Expenses - Grants Consequential Impacts Payables - Grants payable	
3. Cash and Cash Equivalents - Budget relates to estimated closing balance of the ARC endowment special account. The balance of the account was higher than budgeted because one Per and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remediation Research Program grant was relinquished during the year and the funding was returned to the ARC.	1,395	135%	Assets - Cash and cash equivalents Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Cash balance	
4. Grants payable - variance relates to the grants cash underspend of \$88 million which resulted in a corresponding increase in the grants payable. This was offset by the grants under expense as detailed above which reduced the payable by \$37.0 million. The cash underspend is attributed to the timing of the update to the funding caps in the ARC Act as detailed above. The increase to the funding cap occurred after the last grants payment resulting in an under spend of \$17.2 million. There was also a delay in the commencement of grants relating to the 2021 round of the Industrial Transformation Research Program resulting in a cash underspend of \$9.7 million and an underspend relating to Linkage Projects of approximately \$5.0 million. Also, in the past the ARC has brought forward payments to utilise undrawn appropriations paying for current contractual commitments, this was not done this year.	51,179	26%	Liability - Grants payable Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Grants	
5. Other payables - Compared to the previous year and budget there are a higher amount of accruals recognised relating to committee member sitting fees.	378	247%	Liability - Other payable Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Suppliers	

Note negative numbers indicate that the actual is less than budget.

Note negative numbers indicate that the actual is less than budget.

Overview

Objectives of the Australian Research Council (ARC)

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is an Australian Government controlled entity. It is a not-for-profit entity. The ARC has only one outcome which is 'Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice'.

The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are general purpose financial statements and are required by section 42 of the Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with:

- a) *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability (Financial Reporting) Rule 2015 (FRR)*; and
- b) Australian Accounting Standards and Interpretations – Reduced Disclosure Requirements issued by the Australian Accounting Standards Board (AASB) that apply for the reporting period.

The financial statements have been prepared on an accrual basis and in accordance with the historical cost convention, except for certain assets and liabilities at fair value. Except where stated, no allowance is made for the effect of changing prices on the results or the financial position. The financial statements are presented in Australian dollars.

New Accounting Standards

The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.

Standard/ Interpretation	Nature of change in accounting policy, transitional provisions ¹ , and adjustment to financial statements
	AASB 1059 became effective from 1 July 2020.
	The new standard addresses the accounting for a service concession arrangement by a grantor that is a public sector entity by prescribing the accounting for the arrangement from a grantor's perspective.
AASB 1059 Service Concession Arrangements: Grantors	<p>Prior to the issuance of AASB 1059, there was no definitive accounting guidance in Australia for service concession arrangements, which include a number of public private partnerships (PPP) arrangements. The AASB issued the new standard to address the lack of specific accounting guidance and based the content thereof broadly on its international equivalent: International Public Sector Accounting Standard 32: Service Concession Arrangements: Grantor.</p> <p>The details of the changes in accounting policies, transitional provisions and adjustments are disclosed below and in the relevant notes to the financial statements.</p>

ARC is not involved in any service concession arrangements as a grantor. Based on ARC's assessment, it is expected that the first-time adoption of AASB 1059 will not have a material impact on the transactions and balances recognised in the financial statements for the year ending 30 June 2021.

Taxation

The ARC is exempt from all forms of taxation except Fringe Benefits Tax (FBT) and the Goods and Services Tax (GST).

Reporting of Administered activities

Administered revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities and cash flows are disclosed in the administered schedules and related notes.

Except where otherwise stated, administered items are accounted for on the same basis and using the same policies as for departmental items, including the application of Australian Accounting Standards.

Events After the Reporting Period

COVID Pandemic

During 2020-21 the ARC has continued to monitor developments in the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures implemented to control and slow the outbreak. The ARC has continued to hold the majority of its meetings during 2020-21 through online arrangements and continued to award new grants under the National Competitive Grants Program.

The ongoing financial viability of the ARC has not been affected by the pandemic as the majority of the ARC's funding comes from Government appropriations and the ARC is well placed to move back to working from home arrangement should a need arise.

Departmental

Noting the COVID commentary above, no Departmental events have occurred after the reporting period that have the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the ARC.

Administered

No Administered events have occurred after the reporting period that have the potential to significantly affect the ongoing structure and financial activities of the ARC.

Financial Performance

This section analyses the financial performance of Australian Research Council for the for the period ended 30 June 2021.

1.1 Expenses

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	12,903	12,110
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans ¹	1,406	1,436
Defined benefit plans ²	937	1,291
Leave and other entitlements	1,529	1,851
Separation and redundancies	241	-
Other employee entitlements	273	273
Total employee benefits	17,289	16,961

1. Includes the Public Sector Superannuation Plan (PSSap) and other choice of fund.

2. Includes the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS) and the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS).

Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses are contained in the People and relationships section.

1.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Consultants	632	605
Contractors	1,000	794
Travel	1	146
IT services	644	467
Other ¹	525	643
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	2,802	2,655

Goods supplied	854	714
Services rendered	1,948	1,941
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	2,802	2,655

Other suppliers

Workers compensation expenses	73	70
Variable lease payments	82	103
Total other suppliers	155	173
Total suppliers	2,957	2,828

1. Other includes media monitors, subscriptions, graphic design, printing, photocopier, telephone costs, staff training, staff study assistance costs, recruitment charges, office consumables and stationery, legal services, storage, hire of equipment, utilities and Comcover premium payments.

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
<u>1.1C: Finance costs</u>		
Interest on lease liabilities	351	454
Unwinding of discount	3	5
Total finance costs	354	459

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 3.2 and 3.4A.

Accounting Policy

All borrowing costs are expensed as incurred.

1.1D: Write-down and impairment of other assets

Impairment of property, plant and equipment	-	15
Revaluation decrements	79	-
Total write-down and impairment of other assets	79	15

1.2 Own-Source Revenue and gains

2021	2020
\$'000	\$'000

Own-Source Revenue

1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers

Rendering of services	1,142	-
Total revenue from contracts with customers	1,142	-

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

The ARC is providing grants administration services to other Australian Government entities, who are managing grant programs focussed on the research sector.

Type of customer:

Australian Government entities (related parties)	1,142	-
	1,142	-

Accounting Policy

The ARC have entered collaborative agreements with three Australian Government entities. They have been assessed as enforceable for the purposes of AASB 15 and each include two primary reporting components:

- Service fees for administrative tasks associated with select grant rounds; and
- Research Management System instance fees for the creation of an entity specific interface to the ARC grants management software.

Each collaborative agreement covers multiple years. They include specific performance obligations allocated via service schedule to each financial year and performance is regularly monitored in partnership with client organisations. All services are agreed and charged in the year provided.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 30 day terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due less any impairment allowance account. Collectability of debts is reviewed at the end of the reporting period and allowances are made when collectability of the debt is no longer probable.

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<u>1.2B: Other revenue</u>		
Resources received free of charge		
Remuneration of auditors	64	61
Total other revenue	64	61

Accounting Policy

Resources Received Free of Charge

Resources received free of charge are recognised as revenue when, and only when, a fair value can be reliably determined and the services would have been purchased if they had not been donated. Use of those resources is recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

1.2C: Revenue from Government

Appropriations		
Departmental appropriations	21,309	21,226
Total revenue from Government	21,309	21,226

Accounting Policy

Revenue from Government

Amounts appropriated for departmental appropriations for the year (adjusted for any formal additions and reductions) are recognised as Revenue from Government when the entity gains control of the appropriation, except for certain amounts that relate to activities that are reciprocal in nature, in which case revenue is recognised only when it has been earned. Appropriations receivable are recognised at their nominal amounts.

Income and Expenses Administered on Behalf of Government

This section analyses the activities the Australian Research Council does not control but administers on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

2.1 Administered - Expenses

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
2.1A: Suppliers		
Goods and services supplied or rendered		
Consultants	2,389	1,560
Contractors	853	1,036
Travel	-	355
Other	199	609
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	3,441	3,560
Goods supplied	195	205
Services rendered	3,246	3,355
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	3,441	3,560
Total suppliers	3,441	3,560
2.1B: Grants		
Public sector		
State and Territory Governments	713,968	716,830
Commonwealth educational institutions (related parties)	57,174	62,424
Private sector		
Other research organisations	106	63
Total grants	771,248	779,317

Accounting Policy

The ARC administers the National Competitive Grants Program on behalf of the Australian Government. Grant liabilities are recognised to the extent that (i) the services required to be performed by the grantee have been performed or (ii) the grant eligibility criteria have been satisfied, but payments due have not been made. When the Minister approves grants within the limits of the ARC Act but services have not been performed or criteria satisfied, this is considered a commitment.

2.2 Administered - Income

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Revenue		
2.2A: Other revenue		
Recovery of prior year unspent grant payments	9,375	10,066
Total other revenue	9,375	10,066

Accounting Policy

All administered revenues are revenues relating to ordinary activities performed by the ARC on behalf of the Australian Government. As such, administered appropriations are not revenues of the ARC. The ARC oversees distribution or expenditure of the funds as directed.

Other revenue relates to the prior year unspent grant payments. Under the ARC Act, grant recipients are required to return unspent money to the ARC unless otherwise approved.

Recovery of prior year unspent grant payments is recognised when unspent grant money is identified during grant acquittal processes or grants are relinquished.

Financial Position

This section analyses the Australian Research Council's assets used to conduct its operations and the operating liabilities incurred as a result.

Employee related information is disclosed in the People and Relationships section.

3.1 Financial Assets

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
3.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	675	811
Total cash and cash equivalents	675	811

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Accounting Policy

Cash is recognised at its nominal amount. Cash and cash equivalents includes cash on deposits.

3.1B: Trade and other receivables

Goods and services receivables

Other	177	35
Total goods and services receivables	177	35

Appropriation receivables

Appropriation receivable	17,868	19,448
Total appropriation receivables	17,868	19,448

Other receivables

GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	70	68
Total other receivables	70	68
Total trade and other receivables (gross)	18,115	19,551
Total trade and other receivables (net)	18,115	19,551

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Receivables for goods and services, which have 20 days terms, are recognised at the nominal amounts due.

Accounting Policy

Receivables

Trade receivables and other receivables that have fixed or determinable payments and that are not quoted in an active market are classified as 'receivables'. Receivables are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

The Appropriation Receivable balance represents the amount of undrawn appropriation available to the ARC.

3.2 Non-Financial Assets

3.2A: Reconciliation of the Opening and Closing Balances of Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangibles for 2021

	Buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Computer Software ¹ \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2020				
Gross book value	14,222	2,307	17,044	33,573
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(3,582)	(1,397)	(7,631)	(12,610)
Total as at 1 July 2020	10,640	910	9,413	20,963
Additions				
Purchase	285	428	140	853
Internally developed	-	-	1,838	1,838
Revaluations recognised in net cost of services	56	(27)	-	30
Depreciation and amortisation	(87)	(243)	(2,627)	(2,956)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	(1,990)	(63)	-	(2,054)
Revaluation to fair value				
Decrease in gross book value	(284)	(1,234)	-	(1,518)
Decrease in accumulated depreciation	284	1,234	-	1,518
Disposals				
Other (gross book value)	(6)	(474)	-	(481)
Other (accumulated depreciation)	4	459	-	463
Total as at 30 June 2021	8,902	990	8,764	18,656
Total as at 30 June 2021 represented by				
Gross book value	14,273	1,000	19,022	34,295
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(5,371)	(10)	(10,258)	(15,639)
Total as at 30 June 2021	8,902	990	8,764	18,656
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	8,441	12	-	8,453

1. The carrying amount of computer software included \$140,789 purchased software and \$8,623,390 internally generated software.

No indicators of impairment were found for buildings, plant and equipment and computer software.

Revaluations of non-financial assets

All revaluations were conducted in accordance with the revaluation policy stated at Note 7.4. During June 2021, an independent valuer, Public Private Property Pty Ltd, conducted a revaluation of the ARC's assets. The revaluation was assessed as at 30 June 2021 and included building, property, plant and equipment assets. Exclusions included ROU assets and computer software.

Contractual commitments for the acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets

Contractual commitments for IT systems under development are predominately for ICT contractors. The GST inclusive amount is \$1,964,650 (2019-20: \$1,495,429). The GST exclusive amount is \$1,786,046 (2019-20: \$1,359,481).

Accounting Policy

Assets are recorded at cost on acquisition except as stated below.

The cost of acquisition includes the fair value of assets transferred in exchange and liabilities undertaken. Financial assets are initially measured at their fair value plus transaction costs where appropriate.

Assets acquired at no cost, or for nominal consideration, are initially recognised as assets and income at their fair value at the date of acquisition, unless acquired as a consequence of restructuring of administrative arrangements. In the latter case, assets are initially recognised as contributions by owners at the amounts at which they were recognised in the transferor's accounts immediately prior to the restructuring.

Asset Recognition Threshold

Purchases of property, plant and equipment are recognised initially at cost in the statement of financial position, except for purchases costing less than \$2,000, which are expensed in the year of acquisition (other than where they form part of a group of similar items which are significant in total).

The initial cost of an asset includes an estimate of the cost of dismantling and removing the item and restoring the site on which it is located. This is particularly relevant to 'make good' provisions in property leases taken up by the entity where there exists an obligation to restore the property to its original condition. These costs are included in the value of the ARC's Buildings with a corresponding provision for the 'make good' recognised.

Leased Right of Use (ROU) Assets

Leased ROU assets are capitalised at the commencement date of the lease and comprise of the initial lease liability amount, initial direct costs incurred when entering into the lease less any lease incentives received. These assets are accounted for by Commonwealth lessees as separate asset classes to corresponding assets owned outright, but included in the same column as where the corresponding underlying assets would be presented if they were owned.

On initial adoption of AASB 16 the ARC has adjusted the ROU assets at the date of initial application by the amount of any provision for onerous leases recognised immediately before the date of initial application. Following initial application, an impairment review is undertaken for any right of use asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use asset that is impaired. ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in Commonwealth agency, GGS and Whole of Government financial statements.

Revaluations

Following initial recognition at cost, property, plant and equipment (excluding ROU assets) are carried at fair value (or an amount not materially different from fair value) less subsequent accumulated depreciation and accumulated impairment losses. Valuations are conducted with sufficient frequency to ensure that the carrying amounts of assets did not differ materially from the assets' fair values as at the reporting date. The regularity of independent valuations depended upon the volatility of movements in market values for the relevant assets.

Revaluation adjustments are made on a class basis. Any revaluation increment is credited to equity under the heading of asset revaluation reserve except to the extent that it reversed a previous revaluation decrement of the same asset class that was previously recognised in the surplus/deficit. Revaluation decrements for a class of assets are recognised directly in the surplus/deficit except to the extent that they reversed a previous revaluation increment for that class.

Any accumulated depreciation as at the revaluation date is eliminated against the gross carrying amount of the asset and the asset restated to the revalued amount.

Depreciation

Depreciable property, plant and equipment assets are written-off to their estimated residual values over their estimated useful lives to the entity using, in all cases, the straight-line method of depreciation.

Depreciation rates (useful lives), residual values and methods are reviewed at each reporting date and necessary adjustments are recognised in the current, or current and future reporting periods, as appropriate.

	2021	2020
Buildings	Lease term	Lease term
Plant and equipment	2 to 10 years	2 to 10 years

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the commencement date to the end of the lease term.

Accounting Policy (continued)

Impairment

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2021. Where indications of impairment exist, the asset's recoverable amount is estimated and an impairment adjustment made if the asset's recoverable amount is less than its carrying amount.

The recoverable amount of an asset is the higher of its fair value less costs of disposal and its value in use. Value in use is the present value of the future cash flows expected to be derived from the asset. Where the future economic benefit of an asset is not primarily dependent on the asset's ability to generate future cash flows, and the asset would be replaced if the entity were deprived of the asset, its value in use is taken to be its depreciated replacement cost.

Derecognition

An item of property, plant and equipment is derecognised upon disposal or when no further future economic benefits are expected from its use or disposal.

Computer Software

The ARC's computer software comprises internally developed and purchased software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses.

The ARC's internally developed software includes directly attributable overhead costs which meet the recognition criteria in AASB 138. The ARC has a capitalisation threshold of \$50,000 for internally developed software.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful life of ARC computer software ranges from 1 to 11 years.

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2021.

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
3.2B: Other non-financial assets		
Prepayments	213	209
Total other non-financial assets	213	209

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

No indicators of impairment were found for other non-financial assets.

3.3 Payables

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
<u>3.3A: Suppliers</u>		
Trade creditors and accruals	499	543
Total suppliers	499	543

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Settlement is usually made within 20 days (2020: 30 days).

3.3B: Other payables

Salaries and wages	271	228
Superannuation	46	38
Total other payables	317	266

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

3.4 Interest Bearing Liabilities

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
3.4A: Leases		
Lease liabilities	9,332	11,266
Total leases	9,332	11,266

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Total cash outflow for leases for the year ended 30 June 2021 was \$1,934,182 (2020: \$1,998,791).

Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows

Within 1 year	1,840	1,796
Between 1 to 5 years	7,492	8,697
More than 5 years	-	772
Total leases	9,332	11,266

As at 30 June 2021 the ARC have three leasing arrangements in place. Of these the office accommodation leases are material, non-cancellable and for a fixed term of 15 years (since September 2010). They account for \$9,274,512 of the current lease liability. The remaining lease liability relates to backup server space and a pool vehicle.

The above lease disclosures should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes 1.1C and 3.2A.

Accounting Policy

For all new contracts entered into, the ARC considers whether the contract is, or contains a lease. A lease is defined as 'a contract, or part of a contract, that conveys the right to use an asset (the underlying asset) for a period of time in exchange for consideration'.

Once it has been determined that a contract is, or contains a lease, the lease liability is initially measured at the present value of the lease payments unpaid at the commencement date, discounted using the interest rate implicit in the lease, if that rate is readily determinable, or the department's incremental borrowing rate.

Subsequent to initial measurement, the liability will be reduced for payments made and increased for interest. It is remeasured to reflect any reassessment or modification to the lease. When the lease liability is remeasured, the corresponding adjustment is reflected in the right-of-use asset or profit and loss depending on the nature of the reassessment or modification.

3.5 Other Provisions

3.5A: Other provisions

	Provision for make good	
	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2020	387	415
Unwinding of discount	3	5
Change in discount rate and estimated costs to restore	169	(33)
Total as at 30 June 2021	559	387

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

The ARC currently has one (2019-20: one) agreement for the leasing of premises which has a provision requiring the entity to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The entity has made a provision to reflect the present value of this obligation.

Assets and Liabilities Administered on Behalf of the Government

This section analyses assets used to conduct operations and the operating liabilities incurred resulting from the Australian Research Council administering programs on behalf of the Government. Unless otherwise noted, the accounting policies adopted are consistent with those applied for departmental reporting.

4.1 Administered - Financial Assets

	2021	2020
	\$'000	(Restated) \$'000
4.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash in special accounts ¹	2,426	1,030
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,426	1,030

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

1. The ARC Research Endowment Account credit balance held in the OPA.

The above disclosure should be read in conjunction with the accompanying note 5.2.

4.1B: Trade and other receivables

GST Receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	95	160
Grant Receivables	129	119
Total trade and other receivables (net)	224	279

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Credit terms for goods and services were within 20 days (2020: 30 days).

All receivables are current assets and not overdue.

4.2 Administered - Non-Financial Assets

	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000

4.2A: Other non-financial assets

Prepayments	115	118
Total other non-financial assets	115	118

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

No indicators of impairment found for other non-financial assets.

4.3 Administered - Payables

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
4.3A: Grants		
State and Territory Governments	229,188	178,553
Commonwealth educational institutions (related parties)	18,058	15,471
Total grants	247,246	194,024

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Settlement is in accordance with the terms and conditions of each grant which is consistent with the payment schedule determined by the Minister under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

Grants

The ARC recognises a liability for grant funding which is unpaid as at reporting date. Management has made a judgement that there are limited options not to pay out the entire remaining grants or enforce recovery until the recipient acquits the funds.

4.3B: Other payables

Other ¹	531	153
Total other payables	531	153

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

1. Other payables mainly include accruals for the program assessment fees and committee member sitting fees.

4.4 Restatement of Prior Period Disclosure

During 2020-21 it was identified that the ARC's Special Account held in the OPA should be disclosed as "Cash held in the OPA - Special accounts". It was only disclosed in the Administered Reconciliation Schedule, Administered Cash Flow Statement and Special Accounts note in prior years. As a result, the ARC has restated a number of prior year disclosures under the requirements of AASB 108 – Accounting Policies, Changes in Accounting Estimates and Errors as per the table below.

Financial Statements Line Item	2020 (original) \$'000	Adjustment \$'000	2020 (Restated) \$'000
2019-20 Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities			
Cash and cash equivalents	-	1,030	1,030
Total financial assets	397	1,030	1,427
Total assets administered on behalf of Government	397	1,030	1,427
Net assets/(liabilities)	(193,780)	1,030	(192,750)
2019-20 Administered Reconciliation Schedule			
Adjustment for errors	-	1,807	1,807
Adjusted opening assets less liabilities	(181,077)	1,807	(179,269)
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account			
Special account	4,461	(4,461)	-
Appropriation transfers to OPA			
Special account	(3,684)	3,684	-
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June	(193,781)	1,031	(192,750)
2019-20 Administered Reconciliation Schedule			
Cash from Official Public Account			
Special account	4,461	(4,461)	-
Total cash from official public account	774,830	(4,461)	770,369
Cash to the Official Public Account			
Special account	3,684	(3,684)	-
Total cash to official public account	14,723	(3,684)	11,039
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period	-	1,807	1,807
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	-	1,030	1,030

Funding

This section identifies the Australian Research Council's funding structure.

5.1 Appropriations

5.1A: Annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

Annual Appropriations for 2021

	Annual Appropriation ¹ \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation ² \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2021 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance ³ \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	21,309	1,140	22,449	22,724	(275)
Capital Budget ⁴	1,234	-	1,234	2,675	(1,441)
Total departmental	22,543	1,140	23,683	25,399	(1,716)
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	8,669		8,669	5,851	2,818
Total administered	8,669	-	8,669	5,851	2,818

1. Departmental and Administered Ordinary annual services budgets are appropriated through Appropriation and Supply Acts (No.1,3,5).

2. Retained revenue receipts under Section 74 of the PGPA Act.

3. Administered appropriation applied in 2020-21 was less than the total appropriation received. This relates to the underspend in ERA program. ERA expenditure fluctuates with the timing of when ERA and EI assessment rounds are conducted. The next rounds are to run in 2023 for ERA and 2024 for EI. Accordingly unspent 2020-21 annual appropriation will be sought to be brought forward in future years through movement of funds process.

Capital Budgets and Equity Injections appropriations applied in 2020-21 were greater than appropriations provided in 2020-21. This is because prior year funding was drawn to continue developing approved capital projects and upgrading existing capital.

4. Departmental and Administered Capital Budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1,3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

Annual Appropriations for 2020

	Annual Appropriation ¹ \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation ² \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2020 \$'000	Variance ³ \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	21,226	2	21,228	21,346	(118)
Capital Budget ⁴	1,438	-	1,438	2,335	(897)
Other services					
Equity Injections	-	-	-	56	(56)
Total departmental	22,664	2	22,666	23,737	(1,071)
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	9,457	-	9,457	7,179	2,278
Total administered	9,457	-	9,457	7,179	2,278

1. Departmental and Administered Ordinary annual services budgets are appropriated through Appropriation and Supply Acts (No.1,3,5). \$1.446 million of Administered annual appropriation was withheld in 2019-20 which reduced the appropriation from \$10.903 million.

2. Retained revenue receipts under Section 74 of the PGPA Act.

3. Administered appropriation applied in 2019-20 was less than the total appropriation received. This relates to the underspend in ERA program. ERA expenditure fluctuates with the timing of when ERA and EI assessment rounds are conducted. The next rounds are to run in 2023 for ERA and 2024 for EI.

Capital Budgets and Equity Injections appropriations applied in 2019-20 were greater than appropriations provided in 2019-20. This is because prior year funding was drawn to continue developing approved capital projects and upgrading existing capital.

4. Departmental capital budgets are appropriated through Appropriation Acts (No.1,3,5). They form part of ordinary annual services, and are not separately identified in the Appropriation Acts.

5.1B: Unspent annual appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Departmental		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2018-19	-	213
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-20	-	9,876
Supply Act 2019-20	-	9,358
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020-21	8,871	-
Supply Act 2020-21	8,997	-
Total departmental	17,868	19,447
Administered		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2018-19	1,017	1,017
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-20	1,470	1,605
Supply Act 2019-20	957	957
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2020-21	2,037	-
Supply Act 2020-21	917	-
Total administered	6,398	3,579

In addition to the amounts listed above, the ARC held \$0.675 million cash at bank as at 30 June 2021 (2019-20: \$0.811 million).

In 2020-21, \$1.017 million Administered 2018-19 annual appropriations and \$0.109 million Administered 2019-20 annual appropriations have been withheld under Section 51 of the PGPA Act (s51).

In 2020-21, \$2.301 million Administered 2019-20 annual appropriations has been brought forward to 2022-23 as agreed Movement of Funds (MoF) during 2020-21 budget.

The impact of the s51 and MoF is shown below:

	2021 \$'000	less s51 \$'000	less MoF \$'000	2021 \$'000
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2018-19	1,017	1,017	-	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2019-20 & Supply Act 2019-20	2,427	109	2,301	17

5.1C: Special appropriations ('recoverable GST exclusive')

	Appropriation applied	
	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Authority		
<i>Australian Research Council Act 2001 s.49</i> , Administered, limit \$803,409,000 for the current reporting period, remaining appropriation lapsed on 1 July 2021.	716,492	762,541
Total special appropriations applied	716,492	762,541

5.2 Special Accounts

ARC Research Endowment Account (Administered) ¹	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	1,030	1,807
Increases	-	-
Appropriation credited to special account	2,791	3,684
Recovery of unspent grant payments	267	-
Total increases	3,058	3,684
Available for payments	4,088	5,491
Decreases		
Payments made to research organisations	1,662	4,461
Total decreases	1,662	4,461
Total balance carried to the next period	2,426	1,030
Balance represented by:		
Cash held in the Official Public Account	2,426	1,030
Total balance carried to the next period	2,426	1,030

1. Appropriation: *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 section 80*.
Establishing Instrument: *Australian Research Council Act 2001 section 62*.

Purpose: The purpose of the ARC Research Endowment Account is to provide assistance to organisations for eligible research programs. Currently, the Endowment Account is being used for the Special Research Initiative - Per and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remediation Research Program.

5.3 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Total comprehensive income/(loss) - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income		
	(3,144)	(3,470)
Plus : depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ¹	2,956	2,405
Plus : depreciation of right-of-use assets ²	2,054	2,089
Less : lease principal repayments ²	(1,934)	(1,847)
Net Cash Operating Surplus/ (Deficit)	(68)	(823)

1. From 2010-11, the Government introduced net cash appropriation arrangements where revenue appropriations for depreciation/amortisation expenses of non-corporate Commonwealth entities and selected corporate Commonwealth entities were replaced with a separate capital budget provided through equity injections. Capital budgets are to be appropriated in the period when cash payment for capital expenditure is required.

2. The inclusion of depreciation/amortisation expenses related to the ROU assets and the lease liability principal repayment amount reflects the impact of AASB 16 Leases, which does not directly reflect a change in appropriation arrangements.

People and relationships

This section describes a range of employment and post employment benefits provided to our people and our relationships with other key people.

6.1 Employee Provisions

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
6.1A: Employee provisions		
Leave	5,454	5,605
Total employee provisions	5,454	5,605

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Accounting policy

Liabilities for short-term employee benefits and termination benefits expected within twelve months of the end of reporting period are measured at their nominal amounts.

Other long-term employee benefits are measured as net total of the present value of the defined benefit obligation at the end of the reporting period minus the fair value at the end of the reporting period of plan assets (if any) out of which the obligations are to be settled directly.

Leave

The liability for employee benefits includes provision for annual leave and long service leave.

The leave liabilities are calculated on the basis of employees' remuneration at the estimated salary rates that will be applied at the time the leave is taken, including the entity's employer superannuation contribution rates to the extent that the leave is likely to be taken during service rather than paid out on termination.

The liability for long service leave recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2021. The estimate of the present value of the liability takes into account attrition rates and pay increases through promotion and inflation.

Separation and Redundancy

Provision is made for separation and redundancy benefit payments. The entity recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations and has informed those employees affected that it will carry out the terminations.

As at 30 June 2021 the ARC did not have any provisions for separation and redundancy benefit payments.

Superannuation

The ARC's staff are members of the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), or the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap), or other superannuation funds held outside the Australian Government.

The CSS and PSS are defined benefit schemes for the Australian Government. The PSSap is a defined contribution scheme.

The liability for defined benefits is recognised in the financial statements of the Australian Government and is settled by the Australian Government in due course. This liability is reported in the Department of Finance's administered schedules and notes.

The entity makes employer contributions to the employees' defined benefit superannuation scheme at rates determined by an actuary to be sufficient to meet the current cost to the Government. The entity accounts for the contributions as if they were contributions to defined contribution plans.

The liability for superannuation recognised as at 30 June represents outstanding contributions.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

Employee provisions are dependant on management assumptions for their measurement.

No accounting assumptions or estimates have been identified that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next reporting period.

6.2 Key Management Personnel Remuneration

Key Management Personnel (KMP) are those persons who have the authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the ARC, directly or indirectly, including any director (whether executive or otherwise) of the ARC. In 2020-21, there were seven individuals who were considered KMP in the ARC that includes the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Executive General Manager (EGM), Branch Managers or any individuals that have acted in those roles for a significant period of the financial year.

KMP remuneration is reported in the table below:

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	1,418	1,418
Post-employment benefits	245	233
Other long-term employee benefits	34	37
Termination benefits	236	-
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,933	1,688

The total number of KMP who are included in the above table are seven (2019-20: five individuals). Note the two additional KMP this financial year are the result of long term acting. Only their salary for the period of the acting has been reported.

1. The above key management personnel remuneration excludes the remuneration and other benefits of the Portfolio Minister. The Portfolio Minister's remuneration and other benefits are set by the Remuneration Tribunal and are not paid by the entity.

6.3 Related Party Disclosures

Related party relationships:

The ARC is an Australian Government controlled entity. Related parties to the ARC are Key Management Personnel including the Portfolio Minister and other Australian Government entities.

Transactions with related parties:

Given the breadth of Government activities, related parties may transact with the government sector in the same capacity as ordinary citizens. Such transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note. In 2020-21, no Grants were to KMP or their related parties under AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures.

The following transactions with related parties occurred during the financial year:

The ARC transacts with other Australian Government controlled entities consistent with normal day-to-day business operations provided under normal terms and conditions, including the payment of workers compensation, insurance premiums and the payment of superannuation to the Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme (CSS), the Public Sector Superannuation Scheme (PSS), and the PSS accumulation plan (PSSap). These are not considered individually significant to warrant separate disclosure as related party transactions.

Grants paid and grants owing to other Australian Government controlled entities are disclosed under Notes 2.1B and 4.3A.

Managing uncertainties

This section analyses how the Australian Research Council manages financial risks within its operating environment.

7.1 Contingent Assets and Liabilities

There were no Departmental and Administered contingent assets and liabilities in 2020-21 for the ARC (2019-20: nil).

Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. They may arise from uncertainty as to the existence of a liability or asset or represent an asset or liability in respect of which the amount cannot be reliably measured. Contingent assets are disclosed when settlement is probable but not virtually certain and contingent liabilities are disclosed when settlement is greater than remote.

7.2 Financial Instruments

2021	2020
\$'000	\$'000

7.2A: Categories of financial instruments

Financial assets at amortised cost

Cash and cash equivalents	675	811
Goods and services receivables	177	35

Total financial assets at amortised cost	851	846
---	------------	------------

Total financial assets	851	846
-------------------------------	------------	------------

Financial Liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

Suppliers	499	543
Other payables	317	266
Finance leases	9,332	11,266

Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	10,148	12,075
---	---------------	---------------

Total financial liabilities	10,148	12,075
------------------------------------	---------------	---------------

7.2B: Net gains or losses on financial liabilities

Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost

Interest expense	351	459
------------------	-----	-----

Net losses on financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	351	459
---	------------	------------

Net losses from financial liabilities	351	459
--	------------	------------

The interest expense from financial liabilities not at fair value through profit or loss is \$351,319 (2019-20: \$459,668).

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

In accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, the entity classifies its financial assets in the following categories:

- a) financial assets at fair value through profit or loss;
- b) financial assets at fair value through other comprehensive income; and
- c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both the entity's business model for managing the financial assets and contractual cash flow characteristics at the time of initial recognition. Financial assets are recognised when the entity becomes a party to the contract and, as a consequence, has a legal right to receive or a legal obligation to pay cash and derecognised when the contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial asset expire or are transferred upon trade date.

Comparatives have not been restated on initial application.

Financial Assets at Amortised Cost

Financial assets included in this category need to meet two criteria:

1. the financial asset is held in order to collect the contractual cash flows; and
2. the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest (SPPI) on the principal outstanding amount.

Amortised cost is determined using the effective interest method.

Effective Interest Method

Income is recognised on an effective interest rate basis for financial assets that are recognised at amortised cost.

Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Other Comprehensive Income (FVOCI)

Financial assets measured at fair value through other comprehensive income are held with the objective of both collecting contractual cash flows and selling the financial assets and the cash flows meet the SPPI test.

Any gains or losses as a result of fair value measurement or the recognition of an impairment loss allowance is recognised in other comprehensive income.

Financial Assets at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss (FVTPL)

Financial assets are classified as financial assets at fair

value through profit or loss where the financial assets either doesn't meet the criteria of financial assets held at amortised cost or at FVOCI (i.e. mandatorily held at FVTPL) or may be designated.

Financial assets at FVTPL are stated at fair value, with any resultant gain or loss recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest earned on the financial asset.

Impairment of Financial Assets

Financial assets are assessed for impairment at the end of each reporting period based on Expected Credit Losses, using the general approach which measures the loss allowance based on an amount equal to *lifetime expected credit losses* where risk has significantly increased, or an amount equal to *12-month expected credit losses* if risk has not increased.

The simplified approach for trade, contract and lease receivables is used. This approach always measures the loss allowance as the amount equal to the lifetime expected credit losses.

A write-off constitutes a derecognition event where the write-off directly reduces the gross carrying amount of the financial asset.

Financial liabilities

Financial liabilities are classified as either financial liabilities 'at fair value through profit or loss' or other financial liabilities. Financial liabilities are recognised and derecognised upon 'trade date'.

Financial Liabilities at Fair Value Through Profit or Loss

Financial liabilities at fair value through profit or loss are initially measured at fair value. Subsequent fair value adjustments are recognised in profit or loss. The net gain or loss recognised in profit or loss incorporates any interest paid on the financial liability.

Financial Liabilities at Amortised Cost

Financial liabilities, including borrowings, are initially measured at fair value, net of transaction costs. These liabilities are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, with interest expense recognised on an effective interest basis.

Supplier and other payables are recognised at amortised cost. Liabilities are recognised to the extent that the goods or services have been received (and irrespective of having been invoiced).

7.3 Administered - Financial Instruments

	2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
7.3A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Goods and services receivable	224	279
Total financial assets at amortised cost	224	279
Total financial assets	224	279
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Grants payables	247,246	194,024
Other payables	531	153
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	247,777	194,177
Total financial liabilities	247,777	194,177

7.4 Fair Value Measurement

Accounting Policy

The ARC tests the procedures of the valuation model as an asset materiality review at least once every 12 months. If a particular asset class is subject to significant and volatile changes in fair value (i.e. where indicators suggest that the value of the class has changed materially since the previous reporting period), that class is subject to specific valuation in the reporting period, where practicable, regardless of the timing of the last specific valuation. The ARC engaged a valuer to undertake a valuation of property, plant and equipment assets and confirm that the models developed comply with AASB13.

7.4A: Fair value measurement

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting period	
	2021	2020
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-financial assets ¹		
Buildings	8,902	10,640
Plant and Equipment	990	910
Total non-financial assets	9,892	11,550

1. The ARC did not measure any non-financial assets (NFAs) at fair value on a non-recurring basis as at 30 June 2021.

The remaining assets and liabilities reported by the ARC are not measured at fair value in the Statement of Financial Position.

Other information

8.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

8.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

		2021 \$'000	2020 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:			
No more than 12 months			
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	675	811
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	18,115	19,551
Prepayments	3.2B	213	209
Total no more than 12 months		19,003	20,571
More than 12 months			
Land and buildings	3.2A	8,902	10,640
Plant and equipment	3.2A	990	910
Computer software	3.2A	8,764	9,413
Total more than 12 months		18,656	20,963
Total assets		37,659	41,534
Liabilities expected to be settled in:			
No more than 12 months			
Suppliers	3.3A	499	543
Other payables	3.3B	317	266
Leases	3.4A	1,840	1,796
Employee provisions ¹	6.1A	1,319	4,955
Total no more than 12 months		3,975	7,560
More than 12 months			
Leases	3.4A	7,492	9,469
Employee provisions ¹	6.1A	4,135	651
Other provisions	3.5A	559	387
Total more than 12 months		12,186	10,507
Total liabilities		16,161	18,067

1. The method used to estimate the amount of employee provisions expected to be settled in the next 12 months has been updated in 2020-21 to include ARC historical leave applications and the updated shorthand long service leave method supplied by the Department of Finance. Prior year estimates more heavily favoured amounts employees were entitled to claim.

8.1B: Administered - current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

		2021	2020
			(Restated)
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:			
No more than 12 months			
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1A	2,426	1,030
Trade and other receivables	4.1B	224	279
Prepayments	4.2A	115	118
Total no more than 12 months		2,765	1,427
Total assets		2,765	1,427
Liabilities expected to be settled in:			
No more than 12 months			
Grants	4.3A	247,246	194,024
Other payables	4.3B	531	153
Total no more than 12 months		247,777	194,177
Total liabilities		247,777	194,177

PART 06

APPENDICES

Appendix 1	National Competitive Grants Program	165
Appendix 2	National Competitive Grants Program statistics	168
Appendix 3	Resource statements	171
Appendix 4	Other mandatory information	173

This appendix provides information to support the Annual Performance Statement for the Program: National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) – Funding Excellent Basic and Applied Research and Research Training. The Discovery Program and the Linkage Program are funded under the NCGP.

Discovery Program

Australian Laureate Fellowships (FL)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2009
Frequency	Annual
Description	The FL scheme reflects the Australian Government's commitment to excellence in research by supporting world-class researchers to conduct research in Australia.

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2012
Frequency	Annual
Description	The DECRA scheme provides focused research support for early career researchers in both teaching and research, and research-only positions.

Discovery Indigenous (IN)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2002 (Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development); Funding commencing in 2012 (IN)
Frequency	Annual
Description	The IN scheme provides grant funding to support research projects led by an Australian Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander researcher. The IN scheme also funds fellowships through the Discovery Indigenous Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award.

Discovery Projects (DP)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency	Annual
Description	The DP scheme provides grant funding to support research projects that may be undertaken by individual researchers or research teams.

Future Fellowships (FT)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2009
Frequency	Annual
Description	The FT scheme provides support for excellent mid-career researchers to undertake high quality research in areas of national and international benefit.

Linkage Program

ARC Centres of Excellence (CoE)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2003
Frequency	Periodic
Description	The ARC CoE scheme facilitates significant collaboration which allows the complementary resources of universities, publicly funded research organisations, other research bodies, government and business to be concentrated to support outstanding research in all fields (except clinical medical research).

Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2012
Frequency	Annual
Description	The ITRH scheme engages Australia's best researchers to develop collaborative solutions to Industrial Transformation Priority areas and enhance end-user national research capability. Research Hubs support joint research activity between the Australian higher education sector and industry and are designed to focus on strategic outcomes that cannot be realised independently of each other.

Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2013
Frequency	Annual
Description	The ITTC scheme fosters close partnerships between university-based researchers and other sector researchers. Training Centres deliver innovative Higher Degree Research and postdoctoral training. The focus is on creating capacity of a future research workforce that is vital to Australia's future by developing solutions relevant to the Industrial Transformation Priorities.

Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency	Annual
Description	The LIEF scheme provides funding for research infrastructure, equipment and facilities to Eligible Organisations. It enables researchers to participate in cooperative initiatives so that expensive research infrastructure, equipment and facilities can be shared between higher education organisations and industry. The scheme also fosters collaboration through its support of the cooperative use of national or international research facilities.

Linkage Projects (LP)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency	Annual from funding commencing in 2013; continuous from 1 July 2016
Description	The LP scheme supports projects which initiate or develop long-term strategic research alliances to apply advanced knowledge to problems, acquire new knowledge and as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.

Special Research Initiatives (SRI)

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency	As required
Description	Under the SRI scheme, new or emerging areas of research for funding are identified. Applications for funding may be submitted only through ARC invitation by means of a call for proposal(s).

Supporting Responses to Commonwealth Science Council Priorities

First selection round	Funding commencing in 2018
Frequency	As required
Description	The <i>Supporting Responses to Commonwealth Science Council Priorities</i> scheme aims to support the development of Australian research in priority areas as set by the Commonwealth Science Council. Organisations eligible to administer funding under the scheme are the Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) and the Learned Academies.

APPENDIX 2

NATIONAL COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM STATISTICS

This appendix details statistics for each National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) funding scheme for the most recent scheme rounds.

TABLE A1: Discovery Program funding by scheme round (and reporting period) ^{1 2 3}

Scheme round (and reporting period)			
Australian Laureate Fellowships (FL)	FL 2019 (2019–20)	FL 2020 (2020–21)	FL 2021 (2020–21)
Number of applications	149	157	170
Number of awards	17	15	17
Success rate (%)	11.4	9.6	10.0
Total funding (\$)	53,753,052	47,329,286	53,706,710
Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)	DECRA 2019 (2018–19)	DECRA 2020 (2019–20)	DECRA 2021 (2020–21)
Number of applications	1,162	1,248	1,173
Number of awards	200	200	200
Success rate (%)	17.2	16	17.1
Total funding (\$)	76,912,659	81,838,415	84,041,533
Discovery Indigenous (IN)	IN 2019 (2018–19)	IN 2020 (2019–20)	IN 2021 (2020–21)
Number of applications	31	29	24
Number of awards	12	7	9
Success rate (%)	38.7	24.1	37.5
Total funding (\$)	6,749,419	4,688,884	7,121,756
Discovery Projects (DP)	DP 2019 (2018–19)	DP 2020 (2019–20)	DP 2021 (2020–21)
Number of applications	2,921	2,875	3,019
Number of awards	654	660	603
Success rate (%)	22.4	23	20
Total funding (\$)	262,590,367	284,952,924	260,034,079

Scheme round (and reporting period)			
Future Fellowships (FT)	FT 2018 (2018–19)	FT 2019 (2019–20)	FT 2020 (2020–21)
Number of applications	509	589	689
Number of awards	100	100	100
Success rate (%)	19.6	17	14.5
Total funding (\$)	84,723,377	87,843,444	90,512,393

TABLE A2: Linkage Program funding by scheme round (and reporting period) ¹²³

Scheme round (and reporting period)			
ARC Centres of Excellence (CoE) ⁴	CoE 2020 (2019–20)		
Number of Expressions of Interest (EOI)	93		
Number of EOI shortlisted	20		
EOI success rate (%)	21.5		
Number of applications funded	9		
Application success rate (%)	45		
Total funding (\$)	308,790,287		
Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH)	ITRH 2018 (2017–18)	ITRH 2019 (2018–19)	ITRH 2020 (2019–20)
Number of applications	9	13	16
Number of awards	4	4	5
Success rate (%)	44.4	30.8	31.3
Total funding (\$)	17,971,900	18,104,299	24,950,000
Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC)	ITTC 2018 (2017–18)	ITTC 2019 (2018–19)	ITTC 2020 (2019–20)
Number of applications	28	25	31
Number of awards	7	6	5
Success rate (%)	25	24	16.1
Total funding (\$)	28,922,441	24,072,165	24,334,385

Scheme round (and reporting period)			
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)	LIEF 2019 (2018–19)	LIEF 2020 (2019–20)	LIEF 2021 (2020–21)
Number of applications	144	164	138
Number of awards	36	47	47
Success rate (%)	25	28.7	34.1
Total funding (\$)	27,421,223	30,672,752	38,827,812
Linkage Projects (LP)	LP 2018 ⁵ (2018–19)	LP 2019 ⁶ (2019–20)	LP 2020 ^{7,8} (2020–21)
Number of applications	448	432	439
Number of awards	140	175	128
Success rate (%)	31.3	40.5	29.2
Total funding (\$)	60,550,623	78,187,269	57,547,576
Special Research Initiatives (SR)	SR 2018 round 2 ⁹ (2018–19)	SR 2020 round 1 ¹⁰ (2019–20)	SR 2020 round 2 ¹¹ (2020–21)
Number of applications	22	20	692
Number of awards	4	2	49
Success rate (%)	18.2	10.0	7.1
Total funding (\$)	2,664,878	56,000,000	11,759,398

Notes

1. The reporting period is the period where outcomes were finalised (i.e. ministerial decision occurred).
2. Outcomes for ITRH 2021, ITTC 2021, FT 2021 are not included as a ministerial decision was not made within the 2020–21 reporting period. Statistics for these scheme rounds will be included in the Annual Report 2021–22.
3. In 2020–21, the ARC introduced refined methodology and data collection to ensure the performance information is relevant, reliable and complete. Therefore, in some cases results for previous years presented within this appendix differ slightly to those recorded in the Annual Report 2019–20.
4. CoE rounds are run periodically. The most recent round (CoE 2020) was finalised in 2019–20.
5. LP 2018 includes all applications received for funding under the 2018 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2018 selection round may commence in 2018 or 2019.
6. LP 2019 includes all applications received for funding under the 2019 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2019 selection round may commence in 2019 or 2020.
7. LP 2020 includes all applications received for funding under the 2020 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2020 selection round may commence in 2020 or 2021.
8. The results for LP 2020 include data for rounds 1 and 2 of the scheme but exclude data for round 3 as a ministerial decision was not made within the 2020–21 reporting period.
9. SR 2018 round 2 refers to the Per-and-Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remediation Program which was reported in the 2018–19 financial year.
10. SR 2020 round 1 refers to the Excellence in Antarctic Science (SRIEAS) Program which was reported in the 2019–20 financial year.
11. SR 2020 round 2 refers to the Australian Society, History and Culture scheme which received a ministerial decision in the 2020–21 reporting period.

This appendix provides information to support the financial information in **Section 3.2: Financial performance**.

TABLE A3: ARC entity resource statement 2020–21 (all figures \$'000)

		Actual available appropriation 2020–21 \$'000	Payments made 2020–21 \$'000	Balance Remaining 2020–21 \$'000
	Notes	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Departmental				
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services ¹		43,941	25,399	18,542
Total departmental resourcing	A	43,941	25,399	18,542
Administered				
Annual appropriations - ordinary annual services ²		12,248	5,851	
Total administered annual appropriation	B	12,248	5,851	
Administered special appropriations				
<i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i>		803,409	716,492	
Total administered special appropriations	C	803,409	716,492	
Special accounts³				
Opening Balance		1,030		
Appropriation receipts		2,791		
Recovery of unspent grant payments		267		
Payments Made			1,662	
Total special account	D	4,088	1,662	2,426
Total administered resourcing	B+C+D	819,745	724,005	
less administered appropriations drawn from annual appropriations and credited to special accounts	E	2,791	2,791	–
Total resourcing and payments for the ARC	A+B+C+D-E	860,896	746,614	

1. Departmental Appropriation Act (No.1 and No.3) 2020–21. This also includes prior-year departmental appropriation, Cash held in bank and Retained revenue receipts under Section 74 of the PGPA Act.

Departmental capital budgets are not separately identified in Appropriation Bill (No.1, 3, 5) and form part of ordinary annual services items. For accounting purposes, this amount has been designated as a 'contribution by owner'.

2. Administered Appropriation Act (No.1 and No.3) 2020–21. This also includes prior-year Administered appropriation.

In 2020–21, \$1.017 million Administered 2018-19 annual appropriations and \$0.109 million Administered 2019–20 annual appropriations have been withheld under Section 51 of the PGPA Act.

In 2020–21, \$2.301 million Administered 2019–20 annual appropriations has been brought forward to 2022–23 as agreed Movement of Funds during 2020–21 budget.

3. ARC Research Endowment Account (Administered). Excludes trust moneys held in Services for Other Entities and Trust Moneys (SOETM) and other special accounts.

TABLE A4: ARC expenses for outcome 1, 2020–21

Outcome 1: Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice	Budget* 2020–21 \$'000 (a)	Actual Expenses 2020–21 \$'000 (b)	Variation 2020–21 \$'000 (a) – (b)
Program 1.1: Discovery—Research and Research Training			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1 and 3)	1,190	1,125	65
Special appropriations	483,272	504,853	(21,581)
Total for Program 1.1	484,462	505,978	(21,516)
Program 1.2: Linkage—Cross-Sector Research Partnerships			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1 and 3)	1,551	1,313	238
Special appropriations	322,181	264,733	57,448
Special accounts	2,791	1,662	1,129
Total for Program 1.2	326,523	267,708	58,815
Program 1.3: Excellence in Research for Australia			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1 and No.3)	3,137	1,003	2,134
Total for Program 1.3	3,137	1,003	2,134
Outcome 1: Totals by appropriation type			
Administered Expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1)	5,878	3,441	2,437
Special appropriations	805,453	769,586	35,867
Special accounts	2,791	1,662	1,129
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	21,309	19,395	1,914
s74 External Revenue ¹	–	1,142	(1,142)
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ²	3,028	5,153	(2,125)
Total expenses for Outcome 1	838,459	799,237	39,222
	Budget 2020–21	Actual 2020–21	Variation 2020–21
Average staffing level (number)	136	136	–

* Full-year budget that represents in the 2020–21 Portfolio Budget Statements.

1. Estimated expenses incurred in relation to retained revenue receipts under Section 74 of the PGPA Act.

2. Expenses not requiring appropriation in the Budget year are made up of depreciation expenses, amortisation expenses, make good expenses and audit fees.

This appendix provides information required by other legislation, relating to:

- advertising and market research (section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*)
- ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance (section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*)
- work health and safety (Schedule 2, Part 4 of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* [WHS Act]).

The ARC is not defined as a 'public service care agency' and has no obligations under the *Carer Recognition Act 2010*.

ADVERTISING AND MARKET RESEARCH

During 2020–21 the ARC conducted no advertising campaigns.

Under section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, agencies are required to report in their annual reports on payments made to advertising agencies, market research organisations, polling organisations, direct mail organisations and media advertising organisations.

During 2020–21 the ARC did not employ the services of any market research, polling or direct mail organisations.

ECOLOGICALLY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Under section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999*, Australian Government entities have a statutory requirement to report against 2 criteria in their annual reports:

- how they accord with and contribute to Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)
- their environmental performance, that is, the impact their activities have on the natural environment, how these are minimised and how they will be further mitigated.

Accordance with and contribution to ecologically sustainable development

Under the NCGP the ARC provides funding support for research in all disciplines, including issues of national significance such as health, social welfare, defence, transport, communications and the environment. The accordance between the ARC's activities and the principles of ESD is outlined in **Table A5**.

TABLE A5: Principles of ESD and ARC activities

Integration: decision making processes should effectively integrate both long-term and short-term economic, environmental, social and equity considerations	Assessment criteria relating to the provision of economic, environmental, social, health and/or cultural benefits to Australia are employed across a range of NCGP schemes. Applications are assessed through a competitive peer review process.
Intergenerational: if there are threats of serious or irreversible environmental damage, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to prevent environmental degradation	The NCGP provides funding for research in all disciplines including research relevant to ESD and environmental protection. Excellence in Research for Australia identifies and promotes excellence across all research fields in Australia's higher education institutions. One aim is to build research excellence resulting in better outcomes for Australia.
Biodiversity: the conservation of biological diversity and ecological integrity should be a fundamental consideration in decision-making	All ARC-funded projects must comply with ethics and research practice requirements including the <i>Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research</i> . This includes the requirement that researchers should conduct research so as to minimise adverse effects on the wider community and the environment.
Valuation: improved valuation, pricing and incentive mechanisms should be promoted	The ARC complies with the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> ensuring that any procurement takes into consideration, among other factors, the environmental sustainability of the proposed goods and services.

National Competitive Grants Program outcomes

Of the 1,269 NCGP projects awarded funding commencing in 2020–21, 185 involved research relevant to the Australian Government Science and Research Priority area 'environmental change'. These projects were allocated total funding of approximately \$97 million.

The ARC also continued to fund a range of ongoing environment-related research projects. Examples of larger scale projects funded include the:

- *ARC Centre of Excellence for Australian Biodiversity and Heritage* (established 2017), which aims to track changes to Australia's environment, to examine the processes responsible for these changes and to identify the lessons that can be used to promote adaptation to Australia's changing environment.
- *ARC Centre of Excellence for Climate Extremes* (established 2017), which is the world's first fully integrated centre focused explicitly on understanding and predicting climate extremes.

- *ARC Centre of Excellence for Plant Success in Nature and Agriculture* (established 2021), which aims to discover the adaptive strategies underpinning productivity and resilience in diverse plants and deepen knowledge of the genetic and physiological networks driving key traits. The Centre will deliver new strategies to address the problems of food security and climate change, establishing Australia as a global leader in these areas.
- *ARC Training Centre for Uniquely Australian Foods* (established in 2019) aims to provide a cohort of trained and industry-ready researchers who can lead the native foods industry forward. The Centre will use an Indigenous governance group to oversee the process of converting traditional knowledge into branded products. This Centre will help drive sustainable growth of high-value products within the premium Australian food sector.
- *ARC Special Research Initiative for Antarctic Science for Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future* (established in 2021) aims to deliver research capability for securing Antarctic environments in the face of uncertain change.
- *ARC Special Research Initiative for Australian Centre for Excellence in Antarctic Science* (established in 2021) aims to understand the coupled ice-ocean atmosphere-ecosystem-solid Earth system to better prepare humanity for the future of climate change.
- *ARC Special Research Initiative: PFAS Remediation Research Program* aims to facilitate the development of innovative technologies to investigate and remediate PFAS (per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances) contaminated media including soil and other solid contaminated debris, groundwater, waterways and marine systems.
- ARC Laureate Fellow, Professor Belinda Medlyn (awarded in 2019) project 'A unified dynamic vegetation model for Australia' aims to synthesise current theory and data to develop a predictive, process-based model for Australian vegetation dynamics in response to environmental change. The project will transform our understanding of Australian vegetation form and function, and place it in a global context, with significant ongoing benefits for land management, fire management, agriculture and conservation.
- ARC Laureate Fellow, Professor David Bellwood (awarded in 2019) project 'A new functional approach to coral reefs' aims to identify the key ecosystem functions that are needed to sustain coral reefs and determine their susceptibility to disturbance. Expected outcomes include a global overview of ecosystem function and an in-depth understanding of how ecosystems change over time. This is likely to result in specific, and practical, management objectives by identifying crucial ecosystem functions that support reefs and the people who rely on them.
- ARC Laureate Fellow, Professor Rupert Grafton (awarded in 2019) project 'Water Justice: Indigenous Water Valuation and Resilient Decision-making' aims to value water and support resilient decision-making for water justice. Project outcomes will empower First Peoples and support resilient and evidence-based decision-making. The key benefit is a sustainable Australia through: the first-ever conjoint socio-cultural values of First Peoples' water; transformative decision-making to account for Indigenous values and risks (such as droughts); and a Water Justice Hub to create a generation of scholars in integrated water valuation, resilient decision-making, and Traditional Water Knowledge.

Environmental performance

The ARC's daily operational activities have an impact on the environment through the use of electricity, vehicles, water, paper and other materials, and the generation of waste. Measures to minimise this impact are outlined below.

Building

The ARC leases an office space at 11 Lancaster Place, Canberra Airport, Canberra. This location houses one of the largest tri-generation plants in Australia. Tri-generation is a process through which natural gas is used as the single input source of energy to generate electricity. Excess energy that would have been lost during the production of electricity is used to heat the buildings in winter and cool them in summer. In addition to producing 3 forms of energy, tri-generation provides efficiencies of 90%. This surpasses the Commonwealth Green Lease Requirement of 4.5 Star NABERS (the National Australian Building Environment Rating System). It also equates to less than half the carbon dioxide emissions of a 5 Star NABERS building.

Energy

ARC office lighting operates on motion sensors and automatically switches off if movement is not detected for a specified period of time. The ARC undertakes an electrical audit of any personal devices to be used on ARC premises. The audit applies a reasonableness test, considering key priorities, including cost, productivity and environmental impact. Devices that do not meet the requirements of this test cannot be used on ARC premises. ARC staff participated in Earth Hour on 27 March 2021. Earth Hour is a 'lights out' initiative designed to draw attention to tackling global warming.

Information management

In accordance with the Australian Government's Digital Transformation Strategy the ARC has committed to digital information management practices and has transitioned to digital record keeping.

In 2020–21, 21 manual processes were replaced with online workflows, reducing the ARC's reliance on paper forms. Additionally, an Information Management Strategy was introduced in 2020–21 and is in the process of being implemented, in line with the National Archive of Australia's *Building Trust in the Public Record* policy, through the Information Management Strategic Plan.

Information and Communication Technology (ICT) services

During this period the ARC continued to pursue best practice principles including:

- sustainable procurement (for example, using recycled office paper and ensuring appropriate resource reuse or recovery for mobiles, toner cartridges and ICT equipment)
- managing resource consumption and demand (for example, monitoring computer to printer ratios)

- managing waste (for example, ensuring e-waste is used or recycled and ICT packaging is recycled)
- providing electronic tools to facilitate a paperless office
- modernised hardware with lower power consumption
- appropriate power saving and sleep settings for devices.

WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY

In accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* (WHS Act), agencies must provide information relating to WHS matters in their annual reports.

Health and safety initiatives

During the year the ARC continued to:

- hold WHS meetings
- provide first aid training to nominated first aid officers
- provide employer-subsidised eyesight testing for screen-based work
- provide training for fire wardens and health and safety representatives
- provide influenza vaccinations to employees and contractors
- organise workstation assessments where required
- provide online WHS training.

Health and safety outcomes

No incidents were reported to the Director, People and Services, in accordance with the ARC's incident notification and reporting procedures.

Notifiable incidents

The ARC had no notifiable incidents during 2020–21. Under the WHS Act, a notifiable incident is one involving the death of a person, the serious injury or illness of a person, or a dangerous incident.

Investigations including details of all notices.

The ARC was not issued with any WHS notices and there were no WHS investigations undertaken during 2020–21.

Other matters

There are no other matters required by guidelines approved on behalf of the Parliament by the Joint Committee of Public Accounts and Audit.

PART 07

AIDS TO ACCESS

List of figures and tables	181
Abbreviations and acronyms	183
Glossary	185
Compliance index	187
Alphabetical index	202

LIST OF FIGURES AND TABLES

FIGURES

TABLE A6: List of figures

No.	Title	Page
1	Structure of the Australian Research Council, June 2021	19
2	ARC outcome and programs	21
3	Relationships between ARC PBS, corporate plan and annual performance statement	27
4	Performance measurement framework	28
5	Applications received and projects funded, 2017–18 to 2020–21	32
6	Departmental financial performance, 2016–17 to 2021–22	70
7	Administered financial performance, 2016–17 to 2021–22	70
8	External planning and reporting framework	82

TABLES

TABLE A7: List of tables

No.	Title	Page
1	Details of the Accountable Authority during the reporting period 2020–21	20
2	Summary of results against performance measures	29–30
3	Membership of the ARC Audit Committee, 2020–21	77–78
4	Membership of the Australian Research Integrity Committee, 2020–21	81
5	Parliamentary inquiries in 2020–21	88
6	All ongoing employees, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	92
7	All non-ongoing employees, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	92
8	All ongoing employees, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	93
9	All non-ongoing employees, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	93
10	Number of ongoing employees by gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	94
11	Number of non-ongoing employees by gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	94

12	Number of ongoing employees by gender, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	95
13	Number of non-ongoing employees by gender, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	95
14	Employees by full-time and part-time status, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	96
15	Employees by full-time and part-time status, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	96
16	Employment type by location, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	97
17	Employment type by location, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	97
18	Indigenous employment, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	98
19	Indigenous employment, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2020)	98
20	Employment arrangements, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	98
21	Employment salary ranges by classification level, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2021)	99
22	Information about remuneration for key management personnel, 2020–21	100
23	Information about remuneration for other highly paid staff	101
24	Expenditure on consultancy contracts 2020–21	104
25	Organisations consultancy contract expenditure 2020–21	104
26	Expenditure on non-consultancy contracts 2020–21	105
27	Organisations non-consultancy contract expenditure 2020–21	106
A1	Discovery Program funding by scheme round (and reporting period)	168–169
A2	Linkage Program funding by scheme round (and reporting period)	169–170
A3	ARC entity resource statement, 2020–21 (all figures \$'000)	171
A4	ARC expenses for outcome 1, 2020–21	172
A5	Principles of ESD and ARC activities	174
A6	List of figures	181
A7	List of tables	181–182

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

A	
ACOLA	Australian Council of Learned Academies
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
ANZSRC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classifications
APS	Australian Public Service
APSC	Australian Public Service Commission
ARC	Australian Research Council
ARC Act	<i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i>
ARIC	Australian Research Integrity Committee
AWA	Australian Workplace Agreement
B	
BCP	Business Continuity Plan
BSB	Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
C	
CACHE	Centre for Ancient Cultural Heritage & Environment
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CoE	Centres of Excellence
CP	Corporate Plan
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
D	
DARE	Data Analytics for Resources and Environments
DECRA	Discovery Early Career Researcher Award
DESE	Department of Education, Skills and Employment
DRP	Disaster Recovery Plan
E	
EI	Engagement and Impact
EIS	Engineering and Information Sciences
ERA	Excellence in Research for Australia
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
F	
FL	Australian Laureate Fellowships
FT	Future Fellowships
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>
G	
GST	Goods and Services Tax
H	
HCA	Humanities and Creative Arts
I	
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IFA	Individual Flexibility Arrangements
IN	Discovery Indigenous
IPS	Information Publication Scheme
IT	Information Technology
ITRH	Industrial Transformation Research Hubs

ITRP	Industrial Transformation Research Program
ITTC	Industrial Transformation Training Centres
L	
LIEF	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
M	
MBIE	Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment
MPCE	Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences
MRAG	Medical Research Advisory Group
N	
NABERS	National Australia Building Environment Rating System
NCCGP	National Competitive Grants Program
NCRIS	National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NISDRG	National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants
NIT	National Interest Test
O	
ONI	Office of National Intelligence
P	
PBS	Portfolio Budget Statements
PFAS	Per-and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PGPA Rule	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014</i>
PS Act	<i>Public Service Act 1999</i>
R	
RDC	Rural Research and Development Corporations
REC	Research Evaluation Committee
RGS	Research Grants Services
RM Policy	Risk Management Policy
RMS	Research Management System
ROPE	Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
S	
SAC	Selection Advisory Committee
SBE	Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
SES	Senior Executive Service
SGGA	Streamlined Government Grants Administration
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SMG	Senior Management Group
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
SRI	Special Research Initiatives
SRIEAS	SRI in Excellence in Antarctic Science
U	
UA	Universities Australia
W	
WHS	Work Health and Safety
WHS Act	<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>

GLOSSARY

Administered expenditure

Funding that is managed by agencies on behalf of the Government.

Applied research

Research that aims to address real-world problems by applying existing research theories or practices in a novel or innovative way.

Basic research

Research that contributes to understanding the world through discoveries and the creation of new knowledge, theories and practices.

Chief Investigator

A researcher who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a Chief Investigator under the Discovery Program or Linkage Program Grant Guidelines, and takes responsibility for the conduct of an ARC-funded project.

Discovery Program

Funding for investigator-initiated research projects and research fellowships and awards. The Discovery Program comprises the *FL*, *DECRA*, *DI*, *DP* and *FT* schemes.

Early career researcher

A researcher who has held a PhD or equivalent qualification for a period of less than or equal to 5 years at the time of their application.

Eligible Organisation

An organisation that satisfies the eligibility criteria for an Administering Organisation under the Discovery Program or Linkage Program Grant Guidelines.

EI assessment

An assessment of researchers' engagement with end-users, and how universities are translating their research into economic, social, environmental, cultural and other impacts.

ERA

Provides Australian Government, industry, business and the wider community with assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australia's higher education institutions. The evaluation framework identifies universities and disciplines that are internationally competitive and highlights areas where there are opportunities for further development and investment.

Final report

A report to the ARC that researchers must submit within 12 months of completing their research project. The report includes a range of data and information including a description of research outcomes, academic and commercialisation outputs, and details of collaboration.

Grant Agreement

The agreement entered into by the ARC and an Administering Organisation when an application from that organisation is approved for funding.

Grant Guidelines

Documents published on the GrantConnect website for each grant opportunity that provide applicants with information about schemes, eligibility requirements, the application, selection and approval processes, and requirements for the administration of funding.

Linkage Program

Provides funding for research projects, infrastructure, hubs and centres that foster collaboration among researchers and research teams in Australia and internationally, and with industry and other research end-users. The Linkage Program comprises the ARC CoEs, ITRHs, ITTCs, LIEF, *Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects* (LASP), LP, SRIs and CS schemes.

Mid-career researchers

A researcher with between 5 and 15 years' research experience since the award of a PhD or equivalent qualification at the time of their application.

NCGP

The NCGP incorporates the Discovery Program and the Linkage Program, under which the ARC funds a range of complementary schemes to support the highest-quality basic and applied research, research training, research collaboration or partnerships, and infrastructure across all research disciplines.

Partner Investigator

A researcher who satisfies the eligibility criteria for a Partner Investigator under the Discovery Program or Linkage Program Grant Guidelines, and takes significant intellectual responsibility for the research.

Partner Organisations

National or international organisations that satisfy the eligibility criteria for a Partner Organisation as defined under Linkage Program Grant Guidelines, and contribute to the research project in accordance with the requirements of the scheme.

Peer review

Evaluation of research applications or outputs by experts who assess individual research applications within their field of research or across a broader disciplinary area on the basis of established selection criteria.

Science and Research Priority areas

A set of priority areas identified by the Australian Government that replaced the Strategic Research Priority areas in 2015. The priorities are designed to focus Australian Government support for science and research on the most important challenges facing Australia. The current Science and Research Priority areas are: food, soil and water, transport, cybersecurity, energy, resources, advanced manufacturing, environmental change and health. Each priority is associated with 3 to 4 Practical Research Challenges, which aim to prioritise the development of Australia's research and innovation capabilities in areas the Australian Government regards as pivotal to the nation's future.

Success rate

The number of awards made in a year or funding round as a percentage of the total number of applications. Withdrawn applications are excluded from calculations.

AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ACT 2001—LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

ARC Act Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Pages
46	Letter of transmittal	The Annual Report prepared by the CEO and given to the Minister under section 46 of the PGPA Act for a period must also deal with: (a) any matters required by other provisions of this Act to be dealt with in the report; and (b) any other matters that the Minister, by notice in writing to the CEO, requires to be dealt with in the report. Note: A provision of this Act that requires matters to be dealt with in the report is subsection 33C(3).	Mandatory	iii
33(c)	Letter of transmittal	Particulars of any directions given by the Minister under subsection (1) must be (b) included in the Annual Report prepared by the CEO and given to the Minister under section 46 of the PGPA Act, for the period in which the direction is given.	Mandatory	iii

ANNUAL REPORTS FOR NON-CORPORATE COMMONWEALTH ENTITIES—LIST OF REQUIREMENTS

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AD(g)	Letter of transmittal			
17AI	Letter of transmittal	A copy of the letter of transmittal signed and dated by accountable authority on date final text approved, with statement that the report has been prepared in accordance with section 46 of the Act and any enabling legislation that specifies additional requirements in relation to the annual report.	Mandatory	iii
17AD(h)	Aids to access			
17AJ(a)	Contents	Table of contents.	Mandatory	iv–v
17AJ(b)	Alphabetical index	Alphabetical index.	Mandatory	202–208
17AJ(c)	Abbreviations and acronyms	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory	183–186
17AJ(d)	Compliance index	List of requirements.	Mandatory	187–201
17AJ(e)	A guide to this report	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory	ii
17AJ(f)	A guide to this report	Entity's website address.	Mandatory	ii
17AJ(g)	Copyright page	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory	ii
17AD(a)	Review by Accountable Authority			
17AD(a)	Review by the Accountable Authority	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory	3–14
17AD(b)	Overview of the entity			
17AE(1)(a)(i)	Roles and functions	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory	17–18

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	Organisational structure	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory	19
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	Performance framework	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory	21
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	Performance framework	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory	22
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	Organisational structure	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority.	Mandatory	20
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	Organisational structure	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority.	Mandatory	20
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	Organisational structure	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period.	Mandatory	20
17AE(1)(b)	n/a	An outline of the structure of the portfolio of the entity.	Portfolio departments mandatory	n/a
17AE(2)	n/a	Where the outcomes and programs administered by the entity differ from any Portfolio Budget Statement, Portfolio Additional Estimates Statement or other portfolio estimates statement that was prepared for the entity for the period, include details of variation and reasons for change.	If applicable, Mandatory	n/a

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AD(c)	Report on the Performance of the entity			
	<i>Annual Performance Statements</i>			
17AD(c)(i); 16F	Annual Performance Statement	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1) (b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory	25–68
17AD(c)(ii)	Report on Financial Performance			
17AF(1)(a)	Financial performance	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory	69–70
17AF(1)(b)	Appendix 3 Resource statement	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory	171–172
17AF(2)	n/a	If there may be significant changes in the financial results during or after the previous or current reporting period, information on those changes, including: the cause of any operating loss of the entity; how the entity has responded to the loss and the actions that have been taken in relation to the loss; and any matter or circumstances that it can reasonably be anticipated will have a significant impact on the entity's future operation or financial results.	If applicable, Mandatory.	n/a
17AD(d)	Management and Accountability			
	<i>Corporate Governance</i>			
17AG(2)(a)	Corporate governance	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud systems).	Mandatory	73

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AG(2)(b)(i)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that fraud risk assessments and fraud control plans have been prepared.	Mandatory	iii
17AG(2)(b)(ii)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that appropriate mechanisms for preventing, detecting incidents of, investigating or otherwise dealing with, and recording or reporting fraud that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory	iii
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	Letter of transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the entity.	Mandatory	iii
17AG(2)(c)	Corporate governance	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory	73–86
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	Corporate governance	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to non-compliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy noncompliance.	If applicable, Mandatory	86
Audit Committee				
17AG(2A)(a)	Audit Committee	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	77
17AG(2A)(b)	Audit Committee	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	77–78

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AG(2A)(c)	Audit Committee	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	77–78
17AG(2A)(d)	Audit Committee	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory	77–78
17AG(2A)(e)	Audit Committee	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	77–78
External Scrutiny				
17AG(3)	External scrutiny	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory	87–88
17AG(3)(a)	External scrutiny	Information on judicial decisions and decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner that may have a significant effect on the operations of the entity.	If applicable, Mandatory	87
17AG(3)(b)	External scrutiny	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the Auditor General (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory	87
17AG(3)(c)	External scrutiny	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory	88

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
<i>Management of Human Resources</i>				
17AG(4)(a)	Management of human resources	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory	89–91
17AG(4)(aa)	Management of human resources	<p>Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and non-ongoing basis, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) statistics on full-time employees; b) statistics on part-time employees; c) statistics on gender; d) statistics on staff location. 	Mandatory	92–97
17AG(4)(b)	Management of human resources	<p>Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and non ongoing basis; including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Statistics on staffing classification level; • Statistics on full-time employees; • Statistics on part-time employees; • Statistics on gender; • Statistics on staff location; • Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous. 	Mandatory	92–98

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AG(4)(c)	Management of human resources	Information on any enterprise agreements, individual flexibility arrangements, Australian workplace agreements, common law contracts and determinations under subsection 24(1) of the <i>Public Service Act 1999</i> .	Mandatory	98
17AG(4)(c)(i)	Management of human resources	Information on the number of SES and non-SES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory	98
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	Management of human resources	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory	99
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	Management of human resources	A description of non-salary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory	99
17AG(4)(d)(i)	n/a	Information on the number of employees at each classification level who received performance pay.	If applicable, Mandatory	n/a
17AG(4)(d)(ii)	n/a	Information on aggregate amounts of performance pay at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory	n/a
17AG(4)(d)(iii)	n/a	Information on the average amount of performance payment, and range of such payments, at each classification level.	If applicable, Mandatory	n/a
17AG(4)(d)(iv)	n/a	Information on aggregate amount of performance payments.	If applicable, Mandatory	n/a

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
<i>Assets Management</i>				
17AG(5)	Assets management	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities.	If applicable, mandatory	102
<i>Purchasing</i>				
17AG(6)	Purchasing	An assessment of entity performance against the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> .	Mandatory	103
<i>Consultants</i>				
17AG(7)(a)	Consultants	A summary statement detailing the number of new contracts engaging consultants entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all new consultancy contracts entered into during the period (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting year on the ongoing consultancy contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory	104

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AG(7)(b)	Consultants	A statement that <i>"During [reporting period], [specified number] new consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]"</i> .	Mandatory	104
17AG(7)(c)	Consultants	A summary of the policies and procedures for selecting and engaging consultants and the main categories of purposes for which consultants were selected and engaged.	Mandatory	105
17AG(7)(d)	Consultants	A statement that <i>"Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on contracts for consultancies. Information on the value of contracts and consultancies is available on the AusTender website."</i>	Mandatory	104

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
Reportable non-consultancy contracts				
17AG(7A)(a)	Consultants	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable non-consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable non-consultancy contracts that were entered into during a previous reporting period; and the total actual expenditure in the reporting period on those ongoing contracts (inclusive of GST).	Mandatory	105
17AG(7A)(b)	Consultants	A statement that “ <i>Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable non-consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable non-consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website.</i> ”	Mandatory	106
17AD(daa)	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts			
17AGA	Consultants	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory	104–106

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
<i>Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses</i>				
17AG(8)	Australian National Audit Office access clauses and exempt contracts	If an entity entered into a contract with a value of more than \$100 000 (inclusive of GST) and the contract did not provide the Auditor General with access to the contractor's premises, the report must include the name of the contractor, purpose and value of the contract, and the reason why a clause allowing access was not included in the contract.	If applicable, Mandatory	107
<i>Exempt contracts</i>				
17AG(9)	Australian National Audit Office access clauses and exempt contracts	If an entity entered into a contract or there is a standing offer with a value greater than \$10 000 (inclusive of GST) which has been exempted from being published in AusTender because it would disclose exempt matters under the FOI Act, the annual report must include a statement that the contract or standing offer has been exempted, and the value of the contract or standing offer, to the extent that doing so does not disclose the exempt matters.	If applicable, Mandatory	107

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
Small business				
17AG(10)(a)	Procurement initiatives to support small business	A statement that “[Name of entity] supports small business participation in the Commonwealth Government procurement market. Small and Medium Enterprises (SME) and Small Enterprise participation statistics are available on the Department of Finance’s website.”	Mandatory	108
17AG(10)(b)	Procurement initiatives to support small business	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory	108
17AG(10)(c)	Procurement initiatives to support small business	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that “[Name of entity] recognises the importance of ensuring that small businesses are paid on time. The results of the Survey of Australian Government Payments to Small Business are available on the Treasury’s website.”	If applicable, Mandatory	108
Financial Statements				
17AD(e)	Australian Research Council financial report	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory	113–162

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
Executive Remuneration				
17AD(da)	Management of human resources	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 2-3 of the Rule.	Mandatory	100–101
17AD(f) Other Mandatory Information				
17AH(1)(a)(i)	N/A	If the entity conducted advertising campaigns, a statement that <i>“During [reporting period], the [name of entity] conducted the following advertising campaigns: [name of advertising campaigns undertaken]. Further information on those advertising campaigns is available at [address of entity’s website] and in the reports on Australian Government advertising prepared by the Department of Finance. Those reports are available on the Department of Finance’s website.”</i>	If applicable, Mandatory	n/a
17AH(1)(a)(ii)	Appendix 4 Other mandatory information	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory	173
17AH(1)(b)	Other mandatory information	A statement that <i>“Information on grants awarded by [name of entity] during [reporting period] is available at [address of entity’s website].”</i>	If applicable, Mandatory	109
17AH(1)(c)	Other mandatory information	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory	110

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of Report	Description	Requirement	Pages
17AH(1)(d)	Other mandatory information	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory	110
17AH(1)(e)	Other mandatory information	Correction of material errors in previous annual report.	If applicable, mandatory	110
17AH(2)	Appendix 4 Other mandatory information	Information required by other legislation.	Mandatory	173–177

Source: Resource Management Guide No. 135 Annual reports for non-corporate Commonwealth entities (August 2021, Department of Finance).

ALPHABETICAL INDEX

A

Abbreviations and acronyms 183

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 4-5, 9, 47-50, 52, 85, 108, 165

Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research 85

Reconciliation Action Plan 50, 79, 91

Research Statement 5, 50

researchers 5, 50

Accessibility 10, 110

Accountable Authority iii, 20, 25, 112-114, 116, 188-189, 191

Administered resourcing 6, 171

Administering organisation 31, 35, 38, 185

Administrative tribunals 87-88, 192

Advertising 173, 200

Advisory Council 78-79

Australian National Audit Office (ANAO) 7, 69, 87, 107, 113-114, 198

Annual Performance Statement 22, 25-58, 82, 165, 190

Appeals 33, 39-40, 80, 86

Committee 40, 80

ARC Complaints Handling and Appeals Policy 86

Assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research 4, 17, 22, 25, 27, 30, 50

Assets 69-70, 73, 83, 102, 113, 115, 117-118, 123-124, 126-129, 131, 136-140, 144-145, 147, 152-153, 156-162, 195

Audit 7, 69, 73-74, 77-78, 82-83, 87, 113-114, 126, 133, 172, 176-177, 191-192, 198

Committee 73, 77, 82-83, 191-192

Internal 74, 82-83

McGrathNicol Advisory Partnership 83

AusTender 103-107, 196-198

Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) 11, 183

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) 11

Australian Code for the Care and Use of Animals for Scientific Purposes 5, 85

Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 5, 18, 84, 174

Australian Council for Arts, Protocols for Using First Nations Cultural and Intellectual Property in the Arts 85

Australian Information Commissioner 87-88, 192

Australian Public Service (APS) 13, 73, 84, 183

APS Code of Conduct 84

APS Values 84

Australian Public Service Commission (APSC) 84, 90, 110, 183

Australian Research Council Act 2001 (ARC Act) iii, 3, 17, 25, 74, 76, 82, 127, 134-135, 146, 150-151, 171, 187

Australian Research Integrity Committee 18, 81, 81, 183

B

Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB) 75, 183

Business continuity 76, 83-84, 183

C

Centre of Excellence 14, 59, 63, 65, 174-175

Chief Executive iii-v, 3, 19-20, 25, 74, 100, 103, 105, 113-114, 116, 154, 183

Instructions 103, 105

Officer (CEO) iii-v, 3, 17, 19-20, 25, 40, 52, 69, 73-74, 76-82, 89, 92-97, 99-100, 107, 113-114, 116, 154, 183

Child Safe Organisations and the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework 109

Client Service Charter 86

Collaboration 3, 10, 17-18, 28-30, 32, 41-43, 45, 62, 67, 79, 166-167, 185-186

College of Experts 11, 79-80

Commonwealth Ombudsman 88, 192

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) 54, 75, 183

Complaints handling 80, 86

Compliance index 187-201

Conflict of interest 5, 7, 84

Consultants 104-105, 130, 134, 195-197

Corporate Plan 21-22, 26-28, 32, 34, 49, 82, 189

COVID-19 3, 5-8, 11-13, 37-39, 50, 52, 58, 89, 127, 129

Cyber security 6, 47, 77-78

D

Data visualisation 10

Departmental appropriation 6, 69, 133, 150, 171, 172

Department

of Defence 9, 75

of Education, Skills and Employment 9, 18, 54, 183

of Finance 107, 124, 153, 161, 199-200

of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources 18, 54, 107

of Social Services 110

Detailed assessors 37

Disability 110, 200

Discovery

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) 12, 14, 31, 33, 34, 49, 63, 165, 168, 185

Discovery Indigenous (IN) 14, 31, 49, 67, 79, 165, 168, 183

Discovery Projects (DP) 9-10, 14, 64, 31, 33-34, 165, 168, 185

Program 17, 27, 31, 33-34, 42, 46, 165, 168, 185-186

Diversity 30, 63, 74, 76, 91, 108, 174

Due diligence 7, 19, 73-74, 90

E

Early career researchers 12, 48-49, 165, 185

Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESG) 173, 183

Engagement and Impact (EI) 4, 17-18, 22, 25, 27, 30, 50-51, 56, 74, 81, 127, 183

Assessment 4, 81

EI 2024 8, 58

Eligibility 5, 12, 80, 83, 91, 134, 185-186

Eligible organisations 109, 167

Employment Agreements 89

End of Year Reports 12, 29, 38

Engineering and Information Sciences (EIS) 75, 183

Enterprise Agreement 2017-2020 89

Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 173

Environmental performance 173, 176

Ethical 5, 28, 73, 82, 84-85, 113

Conduct in Research with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples and Communities: Guidelines for Researchers and Stakeholders 85

standards 5, 84-85, 113

Excellence in Antarctic Science (SRIEAS) program 170, 175, 184

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 4-5, 8, 11-14, 17-18, 21, 25, 27, 30, 50-58, 74, 81, 83, 89, 91, 127, 165, 172, 174, 183

ERA 2023 8, 53, 58, 127, 148-149

ERA EI Review 4-5, 8, 13-14, 18, 51-52, 54, 56-58, 81

Exempt contracts 107, 198

External scrutiny 87-88, 192

F

Fields of Research Codes 80, 91

Figures 32, 61, 89, 171, 181

Final Reports 37-38, 42, 45

Financial Compliance Review 83

Financial Management Information System 8

Financial Performance 6, 69-70, 113, 115, 130, 171, 190

Financial Statements 69, 113-162, 199

Fraud iii, 73, 83-84, 90, 113-114, 190-191

Freedom of Information Act 1982 109, 183

Future Fellowships (FT) 12-13, 31, 33-34, 49, 64, 166, 169-170, 183

G

Gender 10-11, 30, 54, 94-95, 181-182, 193

Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship 13

Glossary 185-186

Governance ii, 19, 28, 73-74, 76-78, 81-84, 175, 184, 190-191

Grant

Agreement 10, 12, 35-36, 38, 109, 185

Guidelines 10, 29, 33, 39-40, 80, 109, 185-186

Opportunities 8-9, 11, 19, 29, 35, 79, 109, 186

Outcomes 109

Programs 9, 109, 132

Rules 29, 35, 109

GrantConnect 35-36, 109, 186

Guide to this report v, 188

H

Highlights of 2020–21 iv, 9, 10, 12, 14

Human resources 72, 89, 90-100, 193, 200

Humanities and Social Sciences (HASS) 47

I

Incident management 84, 90

Indigenous vi, 4, 14, 31, 49, 51, 64, 65, 67, 74, 79, 98, 108, 165, 168, 175, 183, 193

 employment 98

 procurement policy 108

 research 4, 51, 67

Individual Flexibility Arrangements (IFAS) 89, 98

Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH) 31, 39, 79, 91, 166, 169, 170, 186

Industrial Transformation Research Program (ITRP) 11, 31, 41, 44, 47, 62, 66, 183, 184

Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC) 29, 31, 39-41, 79, 166, 169, 170, 184

Information and Communications technology (ICT) 6, 13, 19, 76-78, 83, 137, 176, 177, 183

Information management 176

International ii, 4, 6, 8, 10, 17-19, 28, 30, 41-44, 50, 64, 74, 78, 79, 128, 166, 167, 186

J

Joint committee 7, 88, 177

Judicial decisions 87, 88, 192

K

Kathleen Fitzpatrick Australian Laureate Fellowship 13

Key management personnel 99, 100, 115, 154, 155, 182

L

Laureate Fellowships (FL) 13, 31, 33, 34, 49, 79, 165, 168, 183

Learned Academies 167, 186

Learning and development strategy 89

Letter of Transmittal iii, 187, 188, 191

Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) 14, 31, 33, 34, 44, 49, 79, 167, 170

Linkage Projects (LP) 14, 29, 31, 33, 34, 36, 42, 43, 44, 45, 61, 68, 79, 127, 167, 170

M

Major investments 12, 19, 38-39, 91, 127

Making a difference – Outcomes from ARC Supported Research 2020–21 26, 59-68

Media announcements 13

Medical Research Advisory Group (MRAG) 80, 184

Mid-career researchers 7, 12, 166, 186

Minister for Education and Youth iii, 34, 113

N

National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) 9, 184

National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) v, 3, 6, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 18, 25-50, 69, 74, 76, 79, 80, 83, 86, 89, 91, 109, 129, 134, 165-166, 168, 173, 174, 186

Scrutiny Committee 80, 83

National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) 18, 47, 54, 81, 85, 184

National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants (NISDRG) 3, 9, 184

National Science and Research Priorities 47

National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research 5, 85

Non-compliance with finance law 86, 191

O

Office of National Intelligence (ONI) 9, 184

Organisational structure iv, 19, 189

P

Parliamentary 7, 74, 87, 88, 124

Partner organisations vi, 18, 29, 32, 34, 37, 43-45, 186

Peer review vii, 8, 11, 12, 17, 33, 36, 37, 39, 79, 104, 127, 174, 186

Per-and-Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Remediation Program 69, 127, 151, 170, 175

Performance measurement framework 21, 28, 82, 181

Planning and Reporting 76, 81-82, 181

Policy 4-5, 7, 9-10, 19, 28, 31, 33, 35, 41, 47, 50-51, 54, 73-74, 76, 78, 80, 82-86, 88, 91, 103, 105, 107, 108, 110, 176, 184

Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) 21-22, 25-27, 82, 126, 172, 184

Post award 12, 13, 37

Prime Minister's Prizes 14

Procurement 78, 103-108, 174, 176, 195, 199

Program, Strategy and Executive Committee 76

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013 (PGPA Act) iii, 21, 25, 69, 76-77, 81, 83, 86, 103, 105, 113, 116, 128, 148-151, 171-172, 184, 187

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (PGPA Rule) 73, 77, 188-201

Public Service Act 1999 76, 194

Purchasing 103, 195

R

Research Grants Services (RGS) 3, 9, 19, 74

Research Integrity 5, 18, 33, 74, 76, 81, 84, 85, 183

Research Management System (RMS) vii, 9, 10, 11, 86, 91, 132, 184

Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) Statement 5, 12

Resource Statement 69, 171-172, 190

Risk management 74, 77, 82-83, 184

S

Salary 89, 99-101, 153, 154, 194

Security Governance Committee 76

Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) 3, 6, 12, 79, 80, 184

Senior Management Group (SMG) 76, 83, 184

Small business 108, 199

Special Research Initiative (SRI) 9, 13, 31, 33, 34, 36, 39, 47, 49, 50, 65, 69, 79, 151, 167, 170, 175, 184

Antarctic Science for Securing Antarctica's Environmental Future 175

Australian Society, History and Culture 9, 13, 47, 49, 50, 65, 170

Stakeholders 3-6, 8, 10, 11, 18, 41, 51, 52, 54, 56, 85, 91, 204

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) 17, 47, 54, 184

Supporting Responses to Commonwealth Science Council Priorities (CS) 31, 167

T

Thomas, Sue iii, 3, 19, 20, 25, 74, 100, 116

see also Accountable Authority and Chief Executive Officer

Training and development 89-90

W

Work Health and Safety Committee 76

Work Health and Safety Act 2011 90, 173, 177, 184

Workforce 3, 10, 28, 30, 32, 37, 43, 47, 48, 49, 54, 89, 91, 98, 166

ARC.GOV.AU