



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Annual Report

2025–26



Acknowledgement of Country

The Australian Research Council (ARC) acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Australia and their continuing connection to lands, seas, skies and waterways. The ARC acknowledges the important contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research, researchers and the communities they work with, make to our collective knowledge, culture, society, economy and environment. We pay our respects to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and to Elders past and present.

Copyright

Australian Research Council Annual Report

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Australian Government
Australian Research Council

23 September 2026

The Hon Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

It is with great pleasure that I present the *Australian Research Council (ARC) Annual Report 2025–26*, on behalf the ARC Board (Board). This annual report has been prepared for the purposes of:

- section 46 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act), which requires that an annual report be given to the entity's responsible Minister for presentation to the Parliament
- section 65A of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act), which requires that the annual report, as given to you for the reporting period (1 July 2025 – 30 June 2026), must include:
 - particulars of any directions (by legislative instrument) given by the Minister for Education (Minister) to the Board under section 10 of the ARC Act about the performance of the Board's functions or the exercise of its powers, during the reporting period
 - particulars of any directions (not a legislative instrument) given by the Board under section 40B of the ARC Act to the CEO during the reporting period about the performance of the CEO's functions
 - the number of decisions made by the Minister during the reporting period, under each of subsections 47(8), 48(6) and 52(1) of the ARC Act, where the Minister considers that for reasons relevant to the security, defence, or international relations of Australia: the Board should not provide funding approval to an organisation; the Minister must refuse to give funding approval to an organisation; or a funding approval should be terminated
 - information, in respect of each organisation receiving financial assistance under a funding agreement that ended or was terminated during the reporting period, about the nature of the employment of researchers employed by the organisation for the purposes of a research project mentioned in the funding agreement
 - an outline of any other matters that the Minister, by notice in writing to the Chair of the Board, requires to be dealt with in the annual report
- all other enabling legislation that specifies requirements in relation to the report.

The information required under section 65A of the ARC Act is included in **Appendix 3** of this report.

As required by section 17AG(2)(b) of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule* (PGPA Rule), as the Chair of the accountable authority of the ARC, I certify that:

- fraud risk assessments and fraud and corruption control plans were 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 were taken to deal appropriately with fraud relating to the ARC.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Peter Shergold AC FASSA
Chair of the ARC Board
Australian Research Council

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A guide to this report

- **Part 6** includes a list of the abbreviations and acronyms.
- The following acronyms are used regularly throughout the report:
 - Australian Research Council (ARC)
 - Chief Executive Officer (CEO)
 - National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)
 - Research Insights Capability (RIC)
- N/A means not applicable.

Chair's foreword

On behalf of the Australian Research Council (ARC) Board, I am pleased to present the *ARC Annual Report 2025–26*.

This year has reinforced the importance of strong stewardship of Australia's research system. Research plays a vital role in addressing the complex challenges facing our nation and improving the wellbeing and prosperity of Australians. At the same time, public investment in research carries an obligation to ensure funding decisions are rigorous, transparent and trusted.

The ARC occupies a unique position within Australia's research landscape through its role in administering Australian Government funding. Through ARC funding, evaluation and advisory functions, we support research excellence while contributing to the strength and integrity of the broader system, and the creation of new knowledge. This role requires us not only to invest in outstanding research, but also to ensure the system can respond to emerging opportunities, risks and national priorities.

During the 2025–26 financial year, the ARC continued to administer the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) with rigour and consistency while progressing reforms that will strengthen the program over the longer term. We progressed work arising from the Policy Review of the NCGP to support a funding system that remains effective, sustainable and responsive.

Maintaining trust in publicly-funded research requires ongoing attention to research integrity, ethics and security. This year, the ARC released the [ARC Research Security Framework](#), providing greater clarity for researchers and institutions in managing research security risks. The framework was developed following extensive engagement across government and with the research community, recognising that research security is a shared responsibility. The framework aligns with the Statement of Expectations from the Hon Jason Clare MP, Minister for Education, dated 26 March 2026 (Statement of Expectations) and broader government expectations. The framework demonstrates the ARC's commitment to ensuring that our legislative responsibilities relating to security, defence and international relations are administered in a manner that is robust, transparent and proportionate to identified risks. Together with continued improvements to ARC assurance processes, these efforts are supporting a research environment that is both open and secure.



Professor Peter Shergold AC FASSA
Chair of the ARC Board

The ARC also provided leadership on key issues shaping the future of research. During the year, we updated the [ARC Open Access Policy](#) to improve the accessibility of publicly funded research and worked with partners across the sector to provide guidance on the use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) in grant assessment processes. In doing so, the ARC has continued to navigate emerging challenges for the research system, including rapid development of AI and the need for coordinated responses across funding agencies. Our collaboration with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) during the year reflects the importance of a consistent and coordinated approach. These initiatives support a research system that remains contemporary, trusted and internationally connected.

International collaboration remains fundamental to research excellence. The ARC strengthened relationships with key international partners during the year, including through a memorandum of understanding with Canada's Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Ultimately, the Australian Government's investment is reflected in the research that the ARC supports. During 2025–26, the ARC awarded \$1.2 billion dollars through 1,210 new research projects across the NCGP. One notable example this year was the recognition of ARC-funded researcher Professor Richard Robson FAA FRS, with the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, highlighting the global impact of Australian research and the importance of early-stage research as a foundation that supports long-term outcomes.

I thank ARC staff for their professionalism and commitment throughout the year. I also acknowledge my fellow Board members, the ARC Advisory and Audit and Risk Committees, the ARC Indigenous Forum, and the ARC College of Experts as well as our many stakeholders and partners across government, industry and the research sector.

The ARC enters the coming year from a position of strength. Through careful stewardship, robust governance and a continued focus on excellence, we will continue to support a high-performing and trusted research system for Australia.



Professor Peter Shergold AC FASSA
Chair of the ARC Board

CEO's introduction

I am pleased to join the Chair of the ARC Board, Professor Peter Shergold, in presenting the *ARC Annual Report 2025–26*.

The ARC sits at the intersection of government, research and the broader community. Through our administration of Australian Government research funding, together with our advice and engagement, we help connect ideas, people and institutions that contribute to Australia's future. This position brings both responsibility and insight: responsibility for the effective delivery of public funding, and insight into the conditions that enable research excellence to thrive.

Throughout the 2025–26 financial year, the ARC remained focused on the reliable delivery of its core responsibilities. As a small agency with a national remit, our effectiveness depends on the capability, judgement and professionalism of our people. I want to thank our ARC staff, who work with care and diligence to support researchers, institutions and government in a complex and evolving environment.

During the reporting period, the ARC delivered the NCGP with integrity, fairness and rigour. This work is underpinned by detailed operational processes and the sustained effort of staff who manage high volumes of applications and assessments across diverse schemes and disciplines. Maintaining confidence in these processes is central to the ARC's role, and requires constant attention to quality, transparency and service.

The integrity of ARC decision-making also relies on the expertise and commitment of the research community. I would like to acknowledge the critical contributions of the ARC College of Experts and the many external assessors who generously provide their time and expertise. Their role in peer review is fundamental to the credibility of our funding outcomes and to maintaining trust in Australia's research system.

Engagement remains central to how the ARC operates. Throughout 2025–26, we continued to work closely with universities, government partners and researchers to support the delivery of funding rounds, respond to emerging issues, manage research security risks, and ensure our processes remain clear and workable for applicants. These relationships are essential to the effective functioning of the grants program and to continuous improvement over time.



Professor Ute Roessner AM FAA
Chief Executive Officer

The ARC's work is ultimately reflected in the research it enables. Through competitive funding, we support researchers across all non-medical disciplines and career stages to pursue ideas that expand knowledge, build capability and contribute to Australia's economic, social, environmental and cultural wellbeing.

As we look ahead, the ARC will continue to focus on high-quality delivery, strong operational performance, ongoing improvements to our funding processes to further strengthen the identification and funding of excellent research, and constructive engagement with the research community. Our role is to ensure that Australia's research funding system remains trusted, efficient and capable of supporting excellence into the future.

I thank ARC staff for their continued professionalism and commitment, and I acknowledge the support of the ARC Board, advisory bodies and our partners across the research community.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ute Roessner', with a stylized, cursive script.

Professor Ute Roessner AM FAA
Chief Executive Officer

PART 01

Overview of the ARC

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1.1 Purpose

The ARC is a vital component of Australia's innovation and research system. It plays an integral role in supporting the research sector to produce excellent and impactful research for Australia's economic, social, environmental and cultural benefit through the delivery of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). The NCGP funds excellent early-stage research in all disciplines except medical research.

The ARC's broader remit includes providing high-quality research policy advice to the Australian Government; supporting research security and integrity; evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of Australian research; and expanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems. It also facilitates partnerships between researchers and industry, government, community organisations and the international community (see **Table 1**).

Table 1: Our purpose (as at 30 June 2026)

Our purpose	To help shape Australian research for the nation's economic, social, environmental and cultural benefit by enabling excellent research; evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of Australian research; providing expert advice and research grants services; supporting research integrity and promoting ethical research.
Our key activities¹	Fund high-quality, impactful research Through the NCGP, we support excellent early-stage research and research training for the benefit of Australians, across all disciplines (excluding experimental development and medical research), by awarding funding based on a competitive peer review process. Evaluate research excellence, impact and depth We develop and conduct holistic evaluations of Australia's university research that support a competitive and innovation-based economy, and drive improvements in national social and economic priorities. Safeguard research integrity and security We safeguard the ethics, integrity, and credibility of Australian research through a framework of policies, processes and reviews. Provide research grant services to government entities We partner with other Commonwealth entities through our Research Grants Services (RGS) to support program design and administration of their research grants. Provide research policy advice We use our datasets, stakeholder relationships, and rigorous processes to position us to provide expert advice to government and other stakeholders in the Australian research system.

¹ The key activities in effect for the 2025–26 reporting period are as per the [ARC Corporate Plan 2025–26](#). An updated set of key activities was introduced in the [ARC Corporate Plan 2026–27](#), which will be reported against in the 2026–27 annual report.

Table 1: Our purpose (as at 30 June 2026)

Our outcome²	Outcome 1: Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice.
Our programs	Program 1.1: Discovery – Research and research training Building Australia’s research capacity by supporting excellent, internationally competitive research projects, fellowships and awards. Program 1.2: Linkage – Cross-sector research partnerships Building Australia’s research and innovation capacity by supporting excellent, internationally competitive research projects, infrastructure, fellowships, and centres of excellence that involve collaboration among researchers within and beyond the research sector. Program 1.3: Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)³ Improving Australia’s research capacity by evaluating research at eligible Australian higher education institutions against international benchmarks and identifying excellence across the full spectrum of research activities.
Our strategic priorities	World-class advice and engagement Our expertise and knowledge of the research system is shared, recognised, and sought out nationally and internationally, enabled by trusted, mutually beneficial relationships with a wide and influential network. Research system excellence Our streamlined grants programs and processes, world-class data assets, and national assessments enable the research system to continuously improve and ensure Australia remains a leader in research excellence, impact and depth. Empowered people Our expert workforce has the skills and capabilities essential for the future and operates within a culture of collaboration and continuous improvement with a strong focus on excellent service delivery.

² As per the [ARC Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26](#).

³ The 2023 Excellence in Research for Australia round was discontinued and the Australian Universities Accord Final Report, released on 25 February 2024, made recommendations to improve the quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of higher education. Through the 2025–26 Budget, the Australian Government continues to deliver on reforms recommended by the Australian Universities Accord to help build a better and fairer education system.

1.2 Legislation

The amended *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act) came into effect on 1 July 2024. The object of the ARC Act is to establish a national body to:

- support Australian universities in conducting excellent research, including collaborative research with local, national and international partners, for Australia's economic, social, environmental and cultural benefit
- promote and conduct activities to shape and foster the Australian research landscape and community, including by supporting academic career pathways, expanding Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander knowledge systems and evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of Australian research
- support Australian universities to attract and retain academic researchers and promote quality academic jobs
- support research integrity, promote ethical research and facilitate access to research publications and research data
- uphold peer review as a core process to identify excellent research
- administer funding of excellent pure basic research, strategic basic research and applied research in all disciplines under the NCGP except experimental development
- administer funding for nationally significant research programs
- provide expert advice on research to the Australian Government
- partner with other Commonwealth entities to deliver research grants by those other entities.

The ARC Act provides details in relation to the:

- functions of the ARC
- ARC Board
- CEO and staff of the ARC
- designated committees, the ARC Advisory Committee and the ARC Indigenous Forum
- funding of research, including approval of designated research programs by the Minister for Education (Minister), approval of non-designated research programs by the ARC Board, funding agreements and funding rules
- reporting requirements.

The Board, chaired by Professor Peter Shergold, is responsible for determining the priorities, strategies, and policies for the ARC and advising the Minister on these matters.

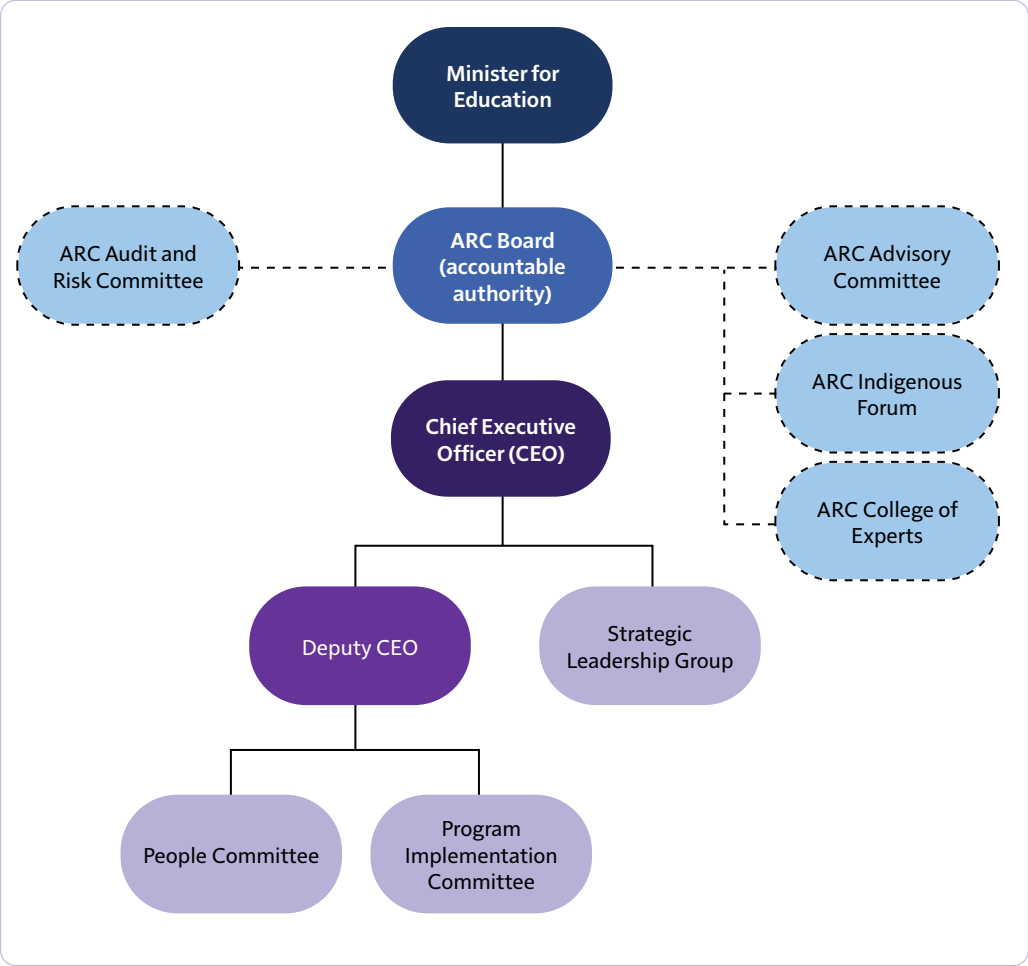
Additionally, the Board is responsible for approving all grants under the NCGP, with the exception of designated research programs, where the Minister maintains the responsibility for award funding.

1.3 ARC governance

The ARC is a non-corporate Commonwealth entity established under the ARC Act, located within the Australian Government’s Education portfolio, and reporting to the Minister.

The ARC’s governance structure (Figure 1) comprises an advisory structure and organisational structure, which respectively supports the ARC Board in its deliberations and effectively implements the Board’s decisions. Our governance framework ensures the ARC operates in accordance with our responsibilities under legislation on matters of effective performance, risk oversight, compliance and reporting.

Figure 1: Governance Structure (as at 30 June 2026)



The Minister for Education

During 2025–26, the Minister for Education was the Hon Jason Clare MP.

Under the ARC Act, the Minister appoints members of the ARC Board and may, by legislative instrument, give directions to the Board relating to the performance of its functions or the exercise of its powers.

The Minister is empowered to approve in writing funding outcomes for a designated research program. As at 30 June 2026, under the ARC Act, 3 programs were designated:

- ARC Centres of Excellence scheme
- Industrial Transformation Research Hubs scheme
- Industrial Transformation Training Centres scheme.

During 2025–26, the ARC Board provided formal recommendations to the Minister on the approval of funding for designated research programs.

The Minister is also empowered under sections 47(8), 48(6) and 52(1) of the ARC Act to refuse or terminate a funding approval for reasons relevant to the security, defence, or international relations of Australia. The Minister must have regard to the matters in section 55 when making these decisions. (See [Appendix 3](#): Reportable directions and decisions.)

The Minister is responsible for the establishment and appointment of members to the designated committees – the ARC Advisory Committee and the ARC Indigenous Forum – to assist the Board in determining its priorities, strategies and policies.

ARC Board

Under the ARC Act, the ARC's accountable authority is the ARC Board. The ARC Board is chaired by Professor Peter Shergold and includes a deputy chair and 6 other members appointed by the Minister (**Table 2**).

Under section 20A of the PGPA Act, the ARC Board is required to establish and oversee the ARC's financial administrative framework. The ARC Board also sets the ARC's priorities, strategies and policies, and provides advice on these matters to the Minister.

The Board is empowered to approve, in writing, funding outcomes for research programs (other than designated research programs). The Board is also responsible for appointing the CEO of the ARC and establishing the ARC College of Experts.

The ARC Board Charter is a key governance document and sets out how the roles and responsibilities of the Board, CEO, and the agency are operationalised.

Table 2: Membership of the ARC Board (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

Member name	Position	Term of appointment
Professor Peter Shergold (Chair)	Chair	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Professor Susan Dodds (Deputy Chair)	Deputy Chair	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Professor Margaret Harding	Board member	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Professor Cindy Shannon	Board member	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Mr Mark Stickells	Board member	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Professor Maggie Walter	Board member	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Professor Paul Wellings	Board member	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029
Ms Sally-Ann Williams	Board member	1 July 2024 – 30 June 2029

Board members

Professor Peter Shergold – ARC Board Chair

Professor Peter Shergold is Emeritus Chancellor at Western Sydney University. Formerly Secretary of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, he now chairs a range of public, private and community boards, including the NSW Education Standards Authority.

Professor Susan Dodds – ARC Board Deputy Chair

Professor Dodds, a philosopher, has experience as a university senior executive, most recently as Senior Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Research and Industry Engagement at La Trobe University. She has served on the Councils of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and the Australasian Association of Philosophy. She has held a range of appointments to committees including the ARC Advisory Committee and the Australian Health Ethics Committee of the NHMRC. In 2022, she was appointed to the ARC Act Review Panel.

Professor Margaret Harding – ARC Board Member

Professor Harding has held multiple senior executive roles in higher education, most recently serving as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research and Innovation) at the Australian National University. She has an extensive portfolio of Board appointments, including as Chair of the Australian National Imaging Facility and the Circular Economy Innovation Network. She is a former member of the ARC Advisory Council and ARC College of Experts and has been a member of numerous governing boards.

Professor Cindy Shannon – ARC Board Member

Professor Cindy Shannon was appointed Chair of the Gold Coast Hospital and Health Board in April 2024. She is former Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Indigenous, Diversity and Inclusion) at Griffith University and a former ARC Advisory Council member. She has an extensive board and committee portfolio, with multiple ministerial appointments, including former council member at NHMRC.

Mr Mark Stickells – ARC Board Member

Mr Stickells has extensive experience in the interconnections between government, research and education. He is a former CEO of the WA Energy Research Alliance, a joint venture between the University of Western Australia, Curtin University and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO). He has a strong research management background, including his current role as the CEO of Australia's Pawsey Supercomputing Research Centre.

Professor Maggie Walter – ARC Board Member

Professor Walter is the former Pro Vice-Chancellor, Aboriginal Research and Leadership at the University of Tasmania. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences Australia and formerly a member of the ARC Advisory Council.

Professor Paul Wellings – ARC Board Member

Professor Wellings is a population ecologist with extensive experience in research policy, and a distinguished career in academia and leadership. He was Deputy Chief Executive of CSIRO, Vice-Chancellor of Lancaster University, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Wollongong, and a member of the ARC Advisory Committee.

Ms Sally-Ann Williams – ARC Board Member

Ms Williams has extensive experience in the technology sector with strong research management, investment and commercial experience. She is the Chair of the National Computational Infrastructure and previously spent 6 years scaling Cicada Innovations Australia's home of deep tech. Ms Williams chaired the Australian Government's Pathway to Diversity in STEM Review. She continues to champion future-critical industries through extensive board directorships across the banking, education, and technology sectors. She is a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering and the Australian Academy of Science, and a member of Chief Executive Women.

Committees

The Board is directly supported by the ARC Audit and Risk Committee, the ARC Indigenous Forum, and the ARC Advisory Committee. There are a number of other committees supporting the ARC in the administration of the NCGP, including matters relating to research integrity.

ARC Audit and Risk Committee

The ARC Board, as the accountable authority of the agency, has established the ARC Audit and Risk Committee in compliance with section 45 of the PGPA Act and section 17 of the PGPA Rule.

The ARC Audit and Risk Committee comprises independent, non-ARC officials as members, who collectively possess diverse skills and experience relevant to ARC operations (**Table 3**).

The committee provides advice to the ARC Board on governance and risk matters. It reviews the appropriateness of the ARC's financial and performance reporting, system of risk oversight and management, and system of internal control. Its functions and responsibilities are detailed in the [ARC Audit and Risk Committee Charter](#), which is reviewed annually and is available on the ARC website.

The ARC Audit and Risk Committee held 5 meetings in 2025–26, including 4 quarterly meetings and one preliminary financial and performance statements meeting.

Table 3: Membership of the ARC Audit and Risk Committee (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

Member name	Number of meetings attended out of total number of meetings	Term of appointment	Total annual remuneration (GST inclusive) ⁴
Mr Allan Gaukroger (Chair)	5 out of 5	5 October 2021 – 31 December 2026	\$15,584.80*
	Mr Gaukroger has over 40 years of experience in the public and private sector, and has held senior positions in finance, audit and general management, including previous roles as Chief Financial Officer and Chief Audit Executive. He is a Certified Practising Accountant (CPA) and has a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in accounting. Mr Gaukroger has been a participant, auditee, independent audit committee member and Chair in various departmental and agency audit committees.		
Mr Peter McKeon	5 out of 5	17 June 2021 – 30 June 2026	\$10,018.80*
	Mr McKeon has over 40 years of experience in the public and private sector and within international organisations. He has held senior roles in public service governance and management, information and communications technology and cyber security, including previous roles as Chief Information Officer and First Assistant Secretary. He has a bachelor's degree in computing studies. Mr McKeon has served on audit and risk committees for more than 14 years.		
Ms Fiona Smart	5 out of 5	9 March 2021 – 30 June 2027	\$10,018.80*
	Ms Smart has 30 years of public service experience in grant design, selection and management, including leading development of a key Commonwealth government grants management system. She has a Bachelor of Economics and has held senior management roles in social policy, program development, implementation and management, and business transformation and administration.		

⁴ Where GST is applicable.

* Not registered for GST.

Member name	Number of meetings attended out of total number of meetings	Term of appointment	Total annual remuneration (GST inclusive) ⁴
Mr Stephen Sheehan	5 out of 5	22 January 2025 – 31 December 2026	\$11,020.68
	Mr Sheehan has 40 years of experience in the financial management and reporting, accounting and financial operations, performance measurement and reporting, audit, risk management and assurance, grants management, and program and project management. He is a CPA and has a Bachelor of Commerce. Mr Sheehan has worked in both public and private sectors, including roles as a Chief Financial Officer, and currently provides audit and risk committee services to various Commonwealth entities.		

ARC Advisory Committee

The ARC Advisory Committee is a designated Committee under the ARC Act. The committee and independent Chair are appointed by the Minister for Education for up to 3 years. Members have broad expertise across research, industry, and governance.

The committee assists the ARC Board to determine priorities, strategies, and policies for the ARC.

A list of the ARC Advisory Committee members is available on the [ARC website](#).

ARC Indigenous Forum

The ARC Indigenous Forum comprises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives including eminent academics; industry, community and research end-users; and early- and mid-career researchers. The ARC Indigenous Forum includes one ex-officio member.

A list of the ARC Indigenous Forum members is available on the [ARC website](#).

ARC College of Experts

The ARC College of Experts (College) is made up of experts drawn from the Australian research community. College members are experts of international standing who bring disciplinary and broad academic expertise; experience in research administration and leadership; and a strong understanding of the Australian and international research landscape.

The College assists the Board in the exercise of its powers, including the management and finalisation of ARC funding schemes through a peer review process.

Peer review is a core process used to identify research excellence and support the NCGP. The College provides high-quality peer review of NCGP applications. They also assist the ARC on the provision of expert advice on research to the Australian Government.

The Board is responsible for the appointment of members of the College. New members are appointed for terms of up to 3 years. This ensures a consistent source of expertise across the research and innovation sector. To ensure that there is a suitable range of expertise available to assess the submitted applications, extensions up to 2 years may be offered at the discretion of the ARC.

As at 30 June 2026, the College comprised 432 members, including 90 new members appointed during 2026. College nominations place an emphasis on multi-disciplinary and cross-disciplinary expertise, and with high regard placed on applicants with significant assessor experience.

A list of the ARC College of Experts members is available on the [ARC website](#).

1.4 ARC organisational structure

Under the ARC Act, the ARC Board – in consultation with the Minister – is responsible for the appointment of the CEO. The CEO is the agency head and is responsible for managing the ARC as a statutory agency.

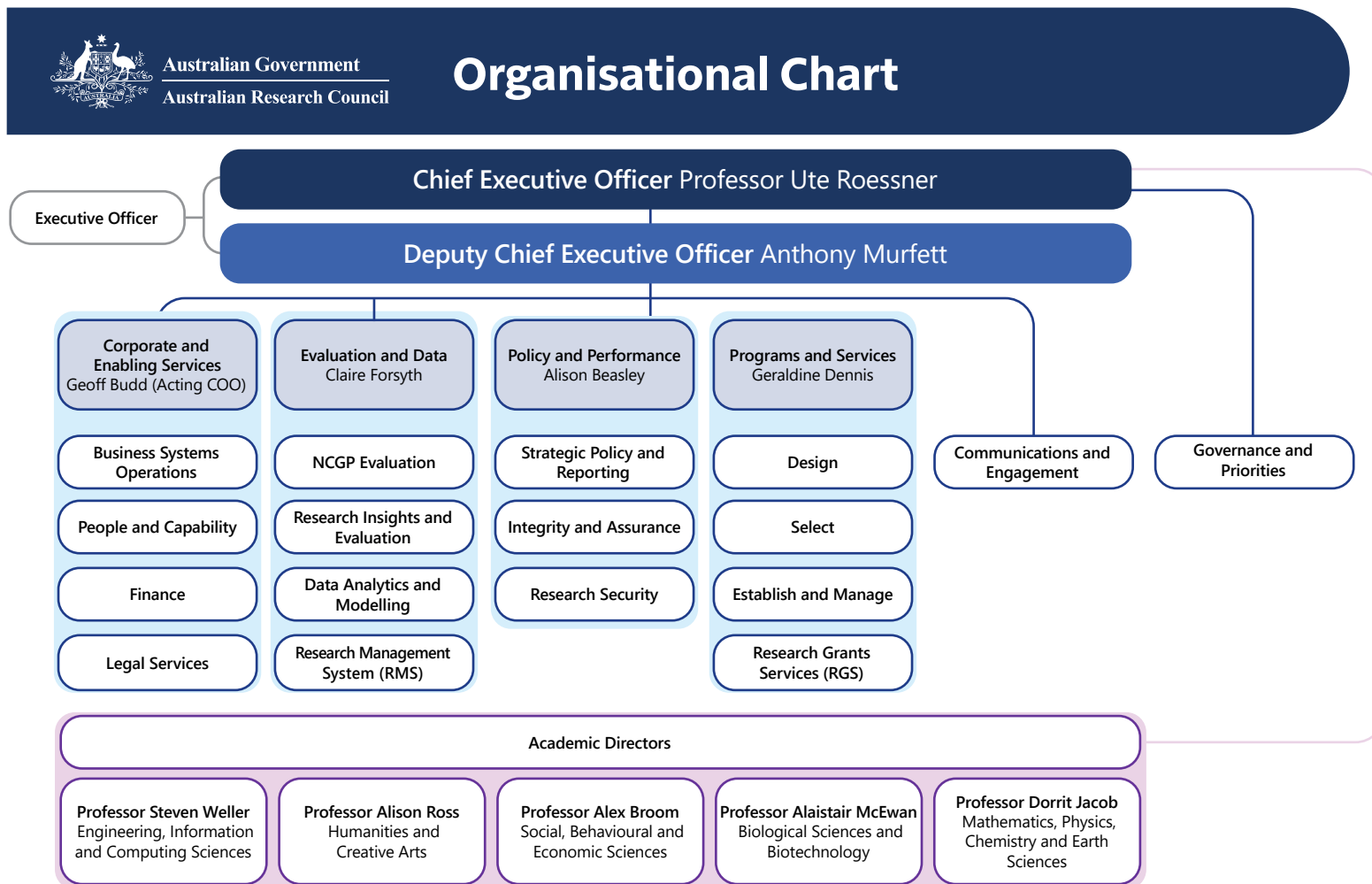
The CEO reports to the Board and is responsible for the agency's day-to-day operations and assisting the Board in the performance of its functions. The operations of the ARC are coordinated through internal management committees comprising the Strategic Leadership Group, the People Committee, and the Program Implementation Committee.

The CEO is supported by the ARC's Deputy CEO; 4 branches; and a cohort of Academic Directors that provide strategic advice on research matters (**Figure 2**).

The Deputy CEO leads the team of senior managers and is responsible for providing strategic advice to the CEO on agency and government policies, programs and operations. The position determines organisational policies and strategies in consultation with the CEO. The Deputy CEO also oversees the strategic development and reform of the agency across a diverse range of areas, including research grant policy and administration; research security; improved research grant program design and delivery; stakeholder engagement; and the provision of advice on the higher education and research sectors.

Academic Directors perform an important function in the ARC through their liaison with the academic research sector and through the expertise they contribute to the ARC's programs, policies and peer review processes.

Figure 2: Organisational structure (as at 30 June 2026)



1.5 Year in review

The 2025–26 financial year was a year of change for the ARC. During this time, we took deliberate, practical steps to strengthen the organisation and ensure we can continue to deliver on our purpose into the future. During the reporting period, the ARC Board commenced development of the [ARC Strategy 2026–2035](#) (ARC Strategy). This work is being informed by advice from the ARC Indigenous Forum and ARC Advisory Committee. The ARC Strategy sets out a vision for the next decade and aims to strengthen ARC’s leadership across the research system. We will deliver this through strategic goals embedded across all aspects of our work.

In alignment with legislative responsibilities established under the ARC Act, enhancing the research security of the Australian Government’s investment in the NCGP remained a key focus throughout the 2025–26 financial year.

In May 2026, the ARC published the [ARC Research Security Framework](#) to improve transparency in relation to NCGP risk assessment processes and to clarify ARC expectations of researchers and universities. Developed through cross-government collaboration, this framework establishes the following principles to inform ARC research security activities:

- advance Australia’s national interest
- research security as a shared responsibility
- proportionate, risk-based decision-making
- national and global responsibility.

The ARC will continue to work closely with the research sector and other government agencies to clarify and consolidate expectations in relation to research security.

The ARC also progressed work throughout 2025–26 to develop a new approach to research evaluation: the ARC’s [Research Insights Capability](#) (RIC). The RIC is intended to provide a rigorous, data-driven mechanism to build understanding, recognise excellence and highlight the achievements of Australian research. Its purpose is to promote positive research practices, strengthen connections between research, government and end-users, and ensure that the knowledge generated through evaluation is accessible, actionable and delivered in a proportionate and efficient manner.

In June 2025, the ARC published [a draft framework](#) and sought views from stakeholders to help shape the direction of national research evaluation, holding more than 50 consultation sessions and receiving 32 written submissions. Following consideration of feedback, in April 2026, the ARC sought expressions of interest from subject matter experts to contribute to a series of working groups that will operate over 2026 to provide further technical advice on the design of RIC.

The year also saw substantial investment in shaping the future of the NCGP. During the reporting period, the ARC undertook work to ensure the program remains robust, responsive and aligned with the evolving needs of Australia's research community. This work will support implementation of the findings of the Policy Review of the NCGP.

In 2026, the ARC completed an internal review of the two-step application process after 3 expression-of-interest (EOI) rounds. The review found that the EOI process did not lead to an overall increase in the number of competitive applications submitted to the ARC compared to pre-EOI rounds. Introduction of a two-step process resulted in an increase in number of applications and reduced overall success rate. While the EOI step reduced burden for applicants who did not progress, the burden on those invited to submit a full application was higher. The review concluded that a two-step process appears most effective when a scheme targets specific research areas, problems or questions, as it provides an early mechanism to determine whether applications fall within the scope of the scheme's objectives.

A significant rise in application volume is an emerging issue for the organisation. This trend is also being observed at counterpart agencies around the world. We are considering our approach to the sustained growth in applications and working with partners such as the NHMRC to ensure a consistent and sustainable response.

Finally, the organisation underwent meaningful internal transformation. This included an organisational restructure designed to strengthen capability and improve service delivery, as well as the relocation to a new, modern and flexible working space that better supports contemporary ways of working and collaboration.

Taken together, these initiatives reflect a year of purposeful transformation for the ARC. Through strategic planning, strengthened processes, deeper engagement across the research sector and government and the development of new insights and capabilities, we have laid important foundations for the future. Across all aspects of our work, the ARC remains committed to supporting a world-class research system that delivers excellent research outcomes, while working with the sector and government to uphold research integrity and security and ensure the responsible stewardship of public investment.

1.6 Outcomes of ARC-funded research

Reinventing mineral processing for a sustainable future

Transforming mineral processing through innovative technologies that improve efficiency, reduce environmental impact and support a more sustainable resources sector.



Kevin and FLS model: Director of the ARC Centre of Excellence for Enabling Eco-efficient Beneficiation of Minerals, Laureate Professor Kevin Galvin, with models of some of the mineral processing technologies the Centre has helped invent in partnership with industry.

[Photo supplied by COEMinerals.](#)

Minerals and metals are essential to modern life in Australia. They underpin the technologies we rely on every day, from smartphones to medical equipment, and are critical to the transition to cleaner energy systems.

However, the processes used to extract these materials, known as beneficiation, are becoming increasingly unsustainable. Declining ore grades, more complex deposits and long-established processing methods are creating technological, economic and environmental challenges for the sector.

The ARC Centre of Excellence for Enabling Eco-Efficient Beneficiation of Minerals (COEMinerals) is addressing these challenges at scale, in close collaboration with industry partners.

Led by Laureate Professor Kevin Galvin, the Centre brings together more than 100 researchers from 8 Australian universities and industry partners, including a large cohort of PhD students who will carry this expertise into the future workforce.

‘When we assembled the Centre of Excellence, we did not want it to be yet another minerals processing centre with all the usual departments,’ Professor Galvin says. ‘We wanted focus and we also wanted to introduce interdisciplinary components, which we did particularly through chemistry.’

That interdisciplinary approach is already delivering results.

The Centre’s REFLUX suite of new technologies, developed with strong industry backing, is improving mineral separation efficiency on mine sites around the world. Building on Professor Galvin’s earlier invention, the REFLUX Classifier, these new systems enable simpler and more effective recovery of copper and other minerals. They are also proving effective in extracting value from tailings dams, materials that have traditionally been treated as waste.

COEMinerals is also applying advanced beneficiation techniques to recovering valuable minerals from urban waste sources. In one world-first development, the team – led by Associate Professor Mahshid Firouzi – adapted flotation processes to recover silver from end-of-life solar panels. With around 4.4 million Australian homes now using rooftop solar, this presents a growing opportunity.

‘The process happens in what we call a one-minute residence time – very fast at ambient temperature with no acid,’ Associate Professor Firouzi says. ‘The recovery is close to 100% while the concentration increase is better than 80-fold, which means the volume of silver comes down to something small that you could probably smelt directly.’

Researchers from the Centre are exploring new methods for extraction of graphite from lithium-ion batteries, by-passing pyrolysis.

Alongside these breakthroughs, researchers are developing practical improvements that can be adopted within existing operations, without significant capital investment. One example is the work by Dr Candice Brill on an aerosol delivery method for flotation chemicals, which improves mineral recovery efficiency and is currently being trialled at mine sites.

Looking ahead, one of the Centre’s most transformative research streams involves the use of peptides – short chains of amino acids – instead of the chemical collectors used in mineral processing. As they are highly selective, peptides can bind to specific mineral surfaces, mimicking how a cancer-targeting drug can target cancer cells.

Centre researcher Professor Chun-Xia Zhao is leading this work.

‘Metals and minerals don’t have DNA, but we know each has unique chemical and physical properties,’ she says. ‘Identifying the exact peptide that can bind to a particular mineral is a bit like uncovering the genetic code for each mineral.’



Mahshid and Hamidreza: Researchers Associate Professor Mahshid Firouzi and PhD candidate Hamidreza Saffarian have developed a new separation technique that applies flotation principles, as used in mineral processing from ore, to recover silver from end-of-life solar panels. [Photo supplied by COEMinerals.](#)

Peptides are already widely used in applications ranging from cosmetics to targeted drug delivery. COE Minerals is adapting these principles to mineral processing, with the potential to transform how rare earth elements are recovered.

Current methods for separating rare earths require complex, multi-stage processes involving large volumes of toxic solvents and significant capital investment. The peptide-based approach could offer a more efficient and environmentally sustainable alternative.

'Our goal is to achieve separation in one or two steps, without toxic solvents, and still deliver high efficiency and purity,' Professor Zhao says.

In parallel, the Centre is rethinking the design of minerals-processing circuits, to prevent overgrinding of the mined ore to reduce energy and water consumption and maximise mineral recovery. Many existing systems have evolved incrementally over decades, resulting in long, complex processing steps that perform poorly.

'We are asking what happens if you redesign the circuit from the ground up using these new technologies,' Professor Galvin says. 'You may be able to reduce a complex plant to just 3 or 4 simplified steps.'

With several years remaining, COE Minerals is well positioned to deliver on its goal of transforming mineral processing. Its close collaboration with industry partners, combined with a strong and diverse pipeline of skilled researchers, highlights both the importance of the sector to Australia's economy and its central role in the transition to Net Zero.

This work reflects the role of the ARC in supporting research that contributes to Australia's long-term capability and resilience, particularly in sectors critical to economic and environmental sustainability.

A parenting program to improve Aboriginal parent and child wellbeing

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parenting program builds on strengths of culture.

Lead institution and scheme: The University of Western Australia – Discovery Indigenous

For more than 65,000 years, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and kinship carers have nurtured children and sustained strong communities through culturally grounded practices of care. However, the impacts of colonisation and the Stolen Generations have disrupted these traditions and contributed to ongoing intergenerational trauma.

The researchers involved in the ARC Indigenous Discovery project, *A parenting program to improve Aboriginal parent and child wellbeing*, aim to develop and implement a culturally safe, responsive and trauma-informed parenting program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

Professor Helen Milroy AM is one of the project's investigators and co-director of Embrace, a research collaboration at The Kids Research Institute in Western Australia that is devoted to the mental health of infants, children and young people ages 0–25. Embrace brings together researchers and mental health partners to find ways to help children at the lowest times in their lives. Professor Milroy says the ARC project seeks to fill a significant gap in parenting programs, which are often designed for the general community and then tailored for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

'There are very few parenting programs in Australia that are co-designed with community and specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families that are both culturally safe and trauma-informed,' she says.

'The program is grounded in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strengths, ways of knowing and doing, and recognises the importance of kinship, connection, and community.'

The research team has developed the Aboriginal Parenting Program through extensive community consultation and co-design. The researchers worked alongside 3 Aboriginal Advisory Groups comprising Elders, parents and caregivers, and professionals. Together they created a 6-module parenting program, which includes self-care, building strong families, addressing intergenerational trauma, and cultural values.



Professor Helen Milroy AM, Chief Investigator on an ARC-funded project developing one of Australia's first culturally safe, trauma-informed parenting programs in partnership with community organisations. [Photo supplied by The Kids Research Institute Australia.](#)

The program acknowledges the ongoing impacts of colonisation and the Stolen Generations while building on the existing knowledge, resilience, and expertise of Aboriginal families. In the program, culture is viewed as a strength and an asset for child-raising.

Senior Research Fellow Dr Celeste Duff says the program reached the pilot phase in July – an achievement to celebrate.

‘Delivered in partnership with community organisations and co-facilitated by research staff and community partners, the pilot phase represents a significant milestone in translating community knowledge into action and generating evidence for a culturally safe, trauma informed parenting program developed by and for Aboriginal families,’ she says.

The pilot study will recruit 40 Aboriginal parents and caregivers of children aged 2–6 years to participate in the six-module program, marking the first opportunity to implement and evaluate the community-designed intervention.

To ensure rigorous evaluation, the pilot will use a mixed-methods evaluation approach to understand both the impact of the program and participants’ experiences. Questionnaires before and after the program will measure parent wellbeing, parenting confidence, the quality of the parent–child relationship, and child behaviour.

Any refinements from the pilot will inform the program and the development of train-the-trainer resources for community organisations. The researchers hope the pilot is successful, with potential future adaptation and implementation across diverse Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities nationwide, beyond Perth where the pilot is being held.

‘Thanks to this funding from the Australian Research Council, we are looking to deliver one of Australia’s first culturally derived and trauma-informed Aboriginal Parenting Programs,’ Professor Milroy says.

Developing new biological approaches to address plastic waste

Advancing biological solutions to break down plastics, supporting more effective recycling and reducing environmental pollution.

Plastic waste is a growing global and national challenge, with hundreds of millions of tonnes produced each year and only a small proportion successfully recycled. New approaches are needed to complement existing recycling systems and reduce long-term environmental impacts.

ARC-funded research is contributing to this effort by advancing Australia's capability in synthetic biology – an emerging field with applications across environmental remediation, advanced manufacturing and biotechnology. Synthetic biology involves redesigning organisms such as microbes for useful purposes, by engineering them to have new abilities.



Professor Amy Cain in the lab.
Photo supplied by Professor Amy Cain.

Supported by an ARC Future Fellowship, Professor Amy Cain is leading research into how naturally occurring microbes can be harnessed and adapted to break down common plastics. The work focuses on microbes found in the gut of the wax moth caterpillar (*Galleria mellonella*), which has demonstrated an unusual ability to degrade low-density polyethylene, a common component of single-use plastic products.

'It's the only organism in the whole world that can eat this particular type of long, low-density polyethylene, which makes up the typical single-use plastic bag,' Professor Cain says.

Rather than focusing on the organism itself, the research identifies the genes and enzymes that enable this process, with the aim of applying them in controlled, scalable systems. This approach reflects broader advances in synthetic biology, where microbial 'chassis' can be engineered to perform new functions in areas such as waste processing, energy and industrial production. Professor Cain is an investigator at the ARC Centre of Excellence in Synthetic Biology.

A key challenge has been linking large volumes of genetic data to specific biological functions.

'It's like trying to pinpoint a needle in a haystack,' Professor Cain says.

Using advanced genomic techniques and support from the Australian Genome Foundry, the research team has developed new methods to rapidly test gene function and identify promising candidates for plastic degradation.



The wax moth caterpillar, *Galleria mellonella*, has demonstrated an unusual ability.
Photo supplied by Professor Amy Cain.

This work has already produced early results, including the identification of microbial strains capable of degrading multiple types of plastic, and improvements in their performance through adaptive laboratory techniques.

'We enhanced it using adaptive laboratory evolution, basically training them on plastic to become better,' Professor Cain says.

The project has also generated potential intellectual property, highlighting pathways from discovery to application.

The research contributes to a growing national effort to develop sustainable, science-based

solutions to environmental challenges. It also demonstrates the role of ARC funding in supporting foundational research that builds new capability and creates opportunities for future translation and industry collaboration.

Professor Cain is now exploring pathways for further development, including engagement with industry partners through the Solving Plastic Waste Cooperative Research Centre.

'My vision is to create an at-home plastic recycling system where you seed some microbes into the recycling system and then you can put plastics in there like a compost,' she says.

ARC funding has supported this work across multiple stages, enabling the development of novel approaches that may not otherwise have been pursued. As this capability matures, it has the potential to contribute to new technologies for managing plastic waste and reducing environmental harm.

This work reflects the role of the ARC in supporting research that strengthens national capability in sustainable materials and environmental management.

Developing advanced building systems to improve indoor air quality

Improving measurement and management of air pollution to protect public health and inform evidence-based environmental policy.

Poor indoor air quality is an under-recognised public health and environmental challenge. Australians spend the majority of their time indoors, yet most buildings are not designed or operated to actively manage exposure to airborne pollutants, including infectious pathogens, smoke and industrial emissions.

ARC funded research is contributing to this challenge by building Australia's capability in indoor air quality science and the design of safer, more resilient buildings.

Led by Australian Laureate Distinguished Professor Lidia Morawska, the ARC Training Centre for Advanced Building Systems Against Airborne Infection Transmission (THRIVE) is developing new approaches to monitor, manage and improve air quality in shared indoor environments.

Professor Morawska is a world leader in air quality science and was awarded the Prime Minister's Prize for Science in 2025 in recognition of her contribution to global air quality research.

'People in modern societies spend 90% of their time indoors breathing indoor air,' Professor Morawska says.

The Centre is working across disciplines to translate advances in air quality research into practical solutions for buildings. This includes developing technologies, systems and standards that can be adopted by industry, as well as building a skilled workforce capable of implementing these approaches.

Associate Professor Wendy Miller, a Senior Consultant at THRIVE, says the Centre is working to shift industry practice in line with advances in air quality science.

A key challenge is that indoor air quality has historically not been systematically measured or regulated in Australia. A 2025 report, released by researchers at the Centre, State of Indoor Air in Australia, found that less than 0.03% of buildings in Australia have ever been monitored for indoor air quality, despite well established links between air pollution and health outcomes.



The research team at the ARC Training Centre for Advanced Building Systems Against Airborne Infection Transmission (THRIVE).

Credit: Anthony Weate.



Australian Laureate Distinguished Professor Lidia Morawska, Director of the ARC Training Centre for Advanced Building Systems Against Airborne Infection Transmission (THRIVE), in the Lab. [Credit: Anthony Weate.](#)

To address this gap, the Centre is contributing to the development of new approaches to monitoring and regulation. Researchers have worked with government and sector partners to identify measurable pollutants and establish pathways towards voluntary and, over time, mandatory standards.

'I have a specific role in the centre ... making sure that the scientific and academic work in the centre on indoor air quality, particular pollutants, is translated into practical implementation in society, in particular in regulations or policy or practices,' Associate Professor Wendy Miller says.

The research is also being tested in real world environments. A mixed use building at Queensland University of Technology is being used as a pilot to demonstrate how air quality monitoring and management systems can be implemented in practice, including the use of sensors and building management systems to improve ventilation and reduce exposure to pollutants.

Industry partners are contributing to this work through the development of sensors and digital systems, supporting the translation of research into deployable technologies.

The project contributes to a broader national effort to improve public health, strengthen resilience to airborne risks, and modernise building standards. It also demonstrates the role of ARC funding in supporting collaborative, cross sector research that informs policy, builds workforce capability and enables practical implementation.

'I would think that in 5 years Australia will have some indoor air quality regulation, and it might include exposure limits to particular pollutants. I think we can expect to see at least some portion of the building stock of Australia – public buildings, schools and hospitals – will start implementing air quality monitoring as a result of our work,' Associate Professor Miller says.

This work reflects the role of the ARC in supporting research that strengthens national capability in public health, building design and environmental management.

Combatting wildlife crime

Using cutting-edge science to disrupt wildlife trafficking and protect Australia's unique biodiversity.

The illegal trade in Australian wildlife is a multimillion-dollar business that endangers our unique biodiversity and poses significant biosecurity risks. Globally, the growing trade is estimated to generate between \$7 billion and \$23 billion every year. The money that can be made from wildlife trafficking makes it increasingly attractive to organised crime, which uses the profits to fund other illicit activities.

Professor Phill Cassey, Director of the Wildlife Crime Research Hub at Adelaide University, is addressing this complex issue in his ARC Industry Laureate Fellowship: *Combatting Wildlife Crime and Preventing Environmental Harm*. His research recognises the need for a multidisciplinary, multifaceted approach that includes forensic tools, specialised data analysis, and increased public awareness.

The Wildlife Crime Research Hub was established by Professor Cassey, with ARC funding, to work closely with government environment and biosecurity agencies, as well as law enforcement and non-government groups. He is helping to forge novel solutions to thwart a surge in the trade in Australian wildlife.

Working with his key Industry Partner, the Australian Centre for Wildlife Genomics at the Australian Museum, Professor Cassey says: 'We're adopting a suite of methods for the rapid real-time detection of trace DNA, particularly for collection of DNA on the packaging and containers used in wildlife trafficking, where you can quickly identify species of highest concern.'

Further work is being conducted to establish the provenance of the species identified. 'The aim is to understand whether these species, particularly highly sought after native reptiles, are wild caught or captive bred, what their level of relatedness is, and to try and get back to individual breeders and disrupt the trafficking at multiple points along the supply chain,' Professor Cassey says.

Australian animals, including plants, reptiles, birds, and increasingly invertebrates (including insects, spiders, and scorpions) are in high demand overseas because they are endemic to Australia and found nowhere else in the world. Professor Cassey says that even relatively common species, including bluetongue and shingleback lizards, are extremely valued by overseas buyers



Portrait – Professor Phill Cassey.
Photo supplied by Professor Cassey.



Seizure of a shingleback lizard.
Photo courtesy of the Department of
Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions,
Western Australia.

at ‘thousands and tens of thousands of dollars, many times the price the same species is sold for in Australia.’

Much of the illegal wildlife trade is promoted and facilitated online. Professor Cassey has harnessed the cybercrime capabilities in various colleges and schools at Adelaide University to help integrate intelligence on the markets for Australian species.

‘We’ve built a suite of automated tools for e-commerce market surveillance. Webscraping of large online marketplaces, and the associated machine learning models for data extraction, have been a very important capability that we have for

revealing the size, value, scale, and scope of the wildlife trade,’ he says.

One of the complexities of this issue is the discrepancies in Australian state and territory legislation governing the breeding, trading and keeping of different species. As part of their environmental stewardship role, Professor Cassey’s team has helped develop a legislative database that allows jurisdictions to easily view each other’s regulations on the keeping and trading of wildlife species.

A further aim of the research program is to boost public awareness of the seriousness of the illegal wildlife trade. The Wildlife Crime Research Hub has partnered with the International Fund for Animal Welfare to deliver an Australian survey on public awareness of wildlife trafficking, the results of which will be used to inform upcoming public awareness campaigns.

In 2025, the Wildlife Crime Research Hub collaborated with Crimestoppers in South Australia to encourage the public to call in evidence of wildlife trafficking. In the same year, a partnership with Adelaide Zoo introduced hundreds of school children to the issue of wildlife trafficking through a ‘Wildlife Crime in Our Backyard’ exhibition and youth art competition, WildVoice.

Combating Wildlife Crime and Preventing Environmental Harm is an example of how ARC funding enables the collaborative, multidisciplinary research needed to address complex and constantly evolving issues such as wildlife trafficking. The project also demonstrates the importance research can have in informing government policy and law.

The little-known Antarctic ice with a global role

Improving climate models by mapping a type of sea ice that plays a critical role in ocean circulation and ecosystems.

A little known type of sea ice forming along the Antarctic coastline is playing a critical role in shaping the Earth's climate system. Known as 'landfast ice' because it is attached to the coastline and does not move with currents, this ice influences ocean circulation, supports marine ecosystems and helps stabilise ice shelves.

Despite its importance, landfast ice has been difficult to measure at scale. In 2025, landfast ice extent fell to a record low, highlighting the need for better data and understanding.

Dr Alexander Fraser from the Australian Antarctic Program Partnership at the University of Tasmania is addressing this gap through his ARC Future Fellowship-funded project, using advances in satellite technology and data analysis to improve how landfast ice is mapped and modelled.

Dr Fraser first encountered the challenge during his PhD, where he spent years manually analysing millions of satellite images to track landfast ice over time. The work was slow and complex, with cloud cover often obscuring the data.

His current research applies automated analysis and improved satellite imaging to generate more accurate, consistent measurements.

A key focus is on the dense water that sinks near Antarctic, known as Antarctic Bottom Water, which is a crucial component of a global network of ocean currents transporting heat, carbon, oxygen and nutrients around the world.

'There are 4 or so regions around the Antarctic coast where the water can get dense enough to overflow over the edge of the continental shelf. This very dense water becomes Antarctic Bottom Water, which drives the global ocean circulation, and 2 of those regions are enlarged by the presence of landfast ice. In this way, landfast ice has globally important ramifications,' Dr Fraser explains.



A curious emperor penguin approaches Dr Alex Fraser (right) during the Sea Ice Physics and Ecosystems eXperiment (SIPEX) voyage on the Australian icebreaker RSV Aurora Australis in 2007. [Photo supplied by Dr Fraser.](#)



Pressure ridges in landfast ice.
Credit: Chris Wilson AAD

Landfast ice also helps protect ice shelves, the floating edges of glaciers that hold back vast amounts of land-based ice. By reducing the impact of ocean waves, landfast ice helps prevent the breakup of these ice shelves and limits ice loss into the ocean.

In addition, landfast ice supports a range of marine life. It provides crucial habitat for emperor penguins, which use the stable landfast ice as a wintertime breeding platform, and acts as a source of nutrients that sustain phytoplankton, which underpin the Southern Ocean food web.

A key aim of Dr Fraser's project is to provide a pathway for modelling landfast ice in the Australian Climate and Earth System Simulator (ACCESS). Funded by the Australian Government and developed through collaboration between the Bureau of Meteorology, CSIRO, the Australian Antarctic Division, and 5 Australian universities, ACCESS is used to inform weather forecasting, climate projections and understanding of past climate patterns.

Until now, landfast ice has not been represented in these models.

Working with other researchers, Dr Fraser is using satellite images and deep analysis to include crucial factors related to landfast ice that are missing from the current ACCESS models. These include the position of grounded icebergs (icebergs so deep they ground on the sea floor), which slow the speed of sea ice, eventually allowing it to freeze as landfast ice.

'It was a missing data set that we've been able to give to the whole world,' Dr Fraser says. 'And it's doing a really good job – the modelling is now predicting landfast ice in the right places.'

Working with Geoscience Australia, Dr Fraser's team have also developed automated methods to identify landfast ice from satellite imagery collected every 12 days, enabling continuous monitoring across Antarctica.

This capability is improving both the accuracy and efficiency of data collection, supporting more reliable modelling over time.

The expertise Dr Fraser has developed in analysing satellite images of Antarctica has led to his recruitment by another ARC-funded researcher, Professor Helen Amanda Fricker, for a next-generation NASA mission known as the Earth Dynamics Geodetic Explorer (EDGE). Expected to launch around 2030, EDGE will bring state-of-the-art technology to observing the three-dimensional structure of terrestrial ecosystems and the surface topography of glaciers, ice sheets and sea ice.

Looking ahead, the immediate focus is on integrating landfast ice data into climate models and improving understanding of its role in major ocean systems, including the global ocean circulation that helps regulate climate.

‘When we get landfast ice into the climate model, we’re going to be making the dense water in the right places. And that’s going to tell us all about the global overturning circulation and how important landfast ice is for that. There are signs that the overturning circulation is slowing down and it’s of great concern.’

This work shows how improved data and modelling can strengthen our understanding of climate change and support more reliable forecasting of its impacts.

PART 02

Annual Performance Statements

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2.1 Statement by the accountable authority

I, as Chair of the accountable authority (ARC Board) of the Australian Research Council, present the ARC Annual Performance Statements 2025–26, as required under paragraph 39(1)(a) of the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013](#) (PGPA Act). In my opinion, these annual performance statements are based on properly maintained records, accurately reflect the performance of the entity in the reporting period (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026) and comply with subsection 39(2) of the PGPA Act and section 16F of the [Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014](#) (PGPA Rule).



Professor Peter Shergold AC FASSA

Chair of the ARC Board

23 September 2026

2.2 Statements overview

Purpose

As outlined in the [ARC Corporate Plan 2025–26](#) (Corporate Plan), the ARC's purpose is to help shape Australian research for the nation's economic, social, environmental and cultural benefit by enabling excellent research; evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of Australian research; providing expert advice and research grants services; supporting research integrity and promoting ethical research.

In support of this purpose, the ARC is responsible for delivering 3 programs, as described in the [ARC Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26](#) (PBS):

- Discovery – Research and Research Training (Program 1.1)
- Linkage – Cross-sector research partnerships (Program 1.2)
- Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) (Program 1.3).

The Discovery and Linkage Programs combined are what is known as the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP).

The Corporate Plan outlined 5 key activities that align with the ARC's purpose and assist us in meeting the objectives of our outcome and programs:

1. Fund high-quality and impactful research
2. Evaluate research excellence, impact and depth
3. Safeguard research integrity and security
4. Provide research grant services to government entities
5. Provide research policy advice.

The *ARC Annual Performance Statements 2025–26* (Statements) outline the ARC's performance, align with the key activities and provide a summary of the agency's effectiveness in achieving its purpose.

Outcomes from research are often realised over a longer term and can be difficult to reliably track through performance measures. However, highlights of ARC-funded research are included in [Section 1.6](#) to demonstrate the excellence of ARC-funded research, and the significant ways in which it can, and continues to, benefit the Australian public.

Approach

For each of the key activities, the Statements include:

- a description of the activity, including alignment to programs and additional performance information (where applicable)
- a detailed analysis of performance for each performance measure
- a performance summary or overall analysis of performance against the activity.

Data notes

The reporting period is based on the financial year (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026), inclusive of start and end dates.

- All data results have been rounded to one decimal place for consistency, except where required to clearly show a result.
- The specific methodologies for calculating the results for each performance measure are denoted with each measure.
- Figures are used in the Statements 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.

Reference material

Descriptions of the NCGP schemes are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

A glossary and list of acronyms and abbreviations used is provided in [Part 6](#).

The following schemes rounds were finalised (i.e. a funding announcement occurred) in 2025–26:

- Discovery Program:
 - Future Fellowships for funding commencing in 2025 (FT 2025)
 - Discovery Projects for funding commencing in 2026 (DP 2026)
 - Discovery Indigenous for funding commencing in 2026 (IN 2026)
 - Discovery Early Career Researcher Award for funding commencing in 2026 (DE 2026).
- Linkage Program:
 - Early Career Industry Fellowships for funding commencing in 2025 (IE 2025)
 - Mid-Career Industry Fellowships for funding commencing in 2025 (IM 2025)
 - Industry Laureate Fellowships for funding commencing in 2025 (IL 2025)
 - Industrial Transformation Research Hubs for funding commencing in 2025 (IH 2025)
 - Industrial Transformation Training Centres for funding commencing in 2025 (IC 2025)
 - Linkage Projects for funding applied for in 2025 Round 1 (LP 2025 R1)
 - Linkage Projects for funding applied for in 2025 Round 2 (LP 2025 R2)
 - Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities for funding commencing in 2026 (LE 2026)
 - ARC Centres of Excellence for funding commencing in 2026 (CE 2026).

2.3 Summary of results

The ARC has 12 reportable performance measures in 2025–26. In 2025–26, the ARC achieved 8 out of 12. A summary of results is provided in **Table 4** and a detailed analysis of the ARC’s performance against each measure is provided later in this section (performance measures 1 to 12).

Table 4: Summary of results against performance measures

Performance measure or mechanism	Target	Result	Status
1. The percentage of ARC schemes completed in time to meet ARC published timeframes	100%	92.30%	Not achieved
2. The percentage of submitted final reports reviewed on time	More than 90%	93.50%	Achieved
3. The proportion of appeals received for NCGP applications	Less than 1%	0.00%	Achieved
4. The percentage of ARC-funded research projects involving international collaboration for all ARC-funded research projects	More than 70%	79.10%	Achieved
5. The average number of days to action research integrity investigation outcomes reported to the ARC	Less than or equal to 30	31 days	Not achieved
6. The proportion of funded Chief Investigators who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researcher	More than 2.01%	2.24%	Achieved
7. The percentage of approved projects where the Administering Organisation is notified within 21 days of approval	100%	100%	Achieved
8. The ARC peer review process identifies research excellence	3/3 mechanisms achieved	3 out of 3	Achieved
8.1 The percentage of full applications that receive a minimum of 2 peer review assessments per application across all NCGP schemes	More than or equal to 90%	99.66%	Achieved
8.2 The percentage of different Fields of Research the ARC College of Experts covers reflecting broad experience and expertise of the College	More than or equal to 80%	87.32%	Achieved
8.3 The number of communication and engagement activities where the ARC promotes, educates or recognises participation in, the peer review process ⁵	More than or equal to 40	43	Achieved

⁵ Minor wording changes were made to Mechanism 8.3 during the reporting period, replacing ‘outreach activities’ with ‘communication and engagement activities’ to more accurately reflect the nature of the activities undertaken. This change did not affect the methodology, data, or results for the mechanism.

Performance measure or mechanism	Target	Result	Status
9. The total contribution from Partner Organisations for all research projects funded under the Linkage Projects scheme	More than or equal to \$1.48	\$1.43	Not achieved
10. Design a new approach for evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of Australian university research	Framework finalised and delivered to government	Substantially achieved	Substantially achieved
11. The ARC provides expert advice on research across government	3/3 mechanisms achieved	2 out of 3	Achieved
11.1 The ARC provides expert advice to parliamentary inquiries on research across government within timeframes provided	100%	N/A	No data
11.2 The number of government committees and forums on research attended by the ARC	15	43	Achieved
11.3 The number of senior academics engaged as Academic Directors who provide the ARC with expert advice on research	More than or equal to 3	5	Achieved
12. Partners are satisfied with the services provided by Research Grants Services	100%	100%	Achieved

2.4 Key activities

Fund high-quality, impactful research

Through the NCGP, the ARC supports excellent early-stage research and research training. The NCGP is currently divided into 2 core programs – Discovery and Linkage – that encourage national competition across all disciplines outside of clinical and other medical research as defined in the [ARC Medical Research Policy](#).

The Discovery and Linkage programs both deliver benefit to Australia by supporting excellent, internationally competitive research that strengthens Australia's capacity in areas of national priority; fostering national and international collaboration; and providing research training and career opportunities to current and emerging researchers.

Consultation with the research sector and other stakeholders as part of the Policy Review of the NCGP revealed a consensus that the NCGP has delivered value over the past 20 years, but it needs to be reshaped for the future if Australia is to achieve the best research outcomes. Consequently, one of the ARC's key priorities for the coming years is to design and implement a new model for the NCGP, including new schemes and processes, to deliver on the Board's bold new policy objectives and give effect to the reforms identified through the Policy Review of the NCGP

Descriptions of the ARC's NCGP schemes under the Discovery and Linkage programs are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

Post-award grant management

Each year, the ARC manages approximately 5,500 active projects, from 89 unique funding rounds, through 14 schemes.

We work with universities to ensure funded projects comply with funding agreements and deliver expected outcomes. This is done through monitoring reports (e.g. end-of-year financial reports, annual/progress reports, final reports), variations to funding agreements, and mid-term reviews (Centres of Excellence scheme only).

Prior to making any significant changes to a project, the Research Office of the Administering Organisation must seek agreement from their Participating Organisations and the ARC. During 2025–26, we assessed and completed 3,621 variations, with 6,437 individual changes being made. While many variations were administrative in nature, others supported projects to respond to changing circumstances and remain on track to achieve their intended outcome. Variations also helped ensure projects remained compliant, funding decisions remained valid, risks were managed and there was a clear audit trail of changes to project arrangements.

During 2025–26, the ARC facilitated the transfer of 310 ARC-funded projects to Adelaide University following the merger of the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia (Foundation Universities) on 1 January 2026, ensuring continuity of grant administration and the effective ongoing management of funded research. During 2026–27, we will continue to consider how we can reduce administrative burden wherever possible, while ensuring that the ARC can meet its legislative, reporting and evaluation requirements.

Evaluate research excellence, impact and depth

The ARC's former evaluation exercises – Excellence in Research for Australia (Program 1.3) and Engagement and Impact – were discontinued in 2023. The Australian Universities Accord recommended development of a data-driven future National Research Evaluation and Impact Framework as a replacement evaluation system.

The ARC undertook initial consultation on the proposed future direction for research evaluation in Australia from July 2025 to November 2025. During this time, the ARC held more than 50 consultation sessions and received 32 written submissions. Responses to the consultation emphasised the significant value of national research evaluation and highlighted that a future evaluation framework should strengthen understanding of sector capability, support improvement, and demonstrate the public value of research through a collaborative and inclusive approach.

Following the consultation, the ARC has sought expressions of interest from qualified subject matter experts to contribute to a series of working groups on the following themes:

- Indigenous research: data, representation and sensitivities
- Research repositories: metadata, standardisation and interoperability
- Demonstrating impact: data and case studies
- Artificial Intelligence (AI): opportunity, best practice and risk
- Indicators and metrics: innovation, diversity and validity
- Research diversity: creative practice, grey literature, and multidisciplinary research.

These working groups will provide expert advice on key areas of evaluation design and implementation. The ARC will work with these groups to develop options for a future evaluation framework for consideration by the Minister for Education.

Safeguard research integrity and security

The Australian public expects research to be conducted responsibly, ethically and with integrity. The ARC plays a vital leadership role in maintaining and promoting responsible conduct of research. In collaboration with the NHMRC and Universities Australia, the ARC co-authored the [*Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018*](#) (Code), which articulates the broad principles and responsibilities that underpin the conduct of Australian research. Alongside the

NHMRC, we provide secretariat support to the Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC), which undertakes reviews of institutional processes used to manage and investigate potential breaches of the Code.

Under the Code, research institutions are responsible for conducting preliminary assessments and investigations. If a research integrity concern involves an ARC project, an ARC-funded researcher, current ARC applications, detailed assessors and/or members of the ARC College of Experts, the institution is required to report the findings of their preliminary assessment or investigation to the ARC. The ARC then takes action in response to the outcomes.

The [*ARC Research Integrity Policy*](#) promotes and supports research integrity and safeguards confidence in the value of publicly-funded research.

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.

In accordance with the Minister's Statement of Expectations, the ARC is expected to ensure that research funded through the NCGP is consistent with Australia's national interests, while maintaining support for the international collaborations that underpin intellectual and scientific progress. The ARC Act assigns the Minister for Education powers relating to the security, defence and international relations of Australia within the context of ARC research grant programs.

The ARC's research security processes support the active management of risk in line with the ARC Act, working in partnership with Australian universities and government agencies.

The [*ARC Research Security Framework*](#), published in May 2026, provides additional transparency for stakeholders in relation to ARC research security expectations and processes.

Provide research grant services to government entities

The ARC partners with other Commonwealth entities to deliver their research grant programs. RGS supports the administration of research grants for these partners via a range of service models including fully managed grant programs, Software as a Service, and identifying research expertise. In 2025–26, RGS:

- supported the award of over \$7.5 million in grants through Managed Services for the Office of National Intelligence
- provided Software as a Service arrangements to support administration of \$395.8 million in grants funded through the Department of Education.

These arrangements support Australian Government grants administration reform initiatives, and aim to make it easier to fund the best research and researchers in line with partner agency policy objectives, provide evidence about the value of research, and support the efficient delivery of research funding. The arrangements leverage the ARC's Research Management System (RMS),

which is familiar to the research sector; improve the consistency of grants administration data available to government; and make it easier to apply for, assess and manage Commonwealth research grants in Australia.

During 2025–26, the ARC partnered with 4 Commonwealth entities to deliver research grants by those entities via our RGS. These partners and programs were:

- the Office of National Intelligence (ONI)
 - National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants program – Intelligence Challenges Grants (Rounds 1 to 4)
 - National Intelligence Discovery Grants program (Rounds 5 to 6) – the program was renamed in 2024 to reflect a refined focus on the Intelligence Challenges
- the National Security Science and Technology Centre (NSSTC), Department of Defence
 - National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants program – National Security Challenges Grants (Rounds 1 to 2)
- the Department of Education
 - National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)
 - Australia’s Economic Accelerator (AEA)
- the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry (DAFF)
 - Future Drought Fund.

ONI, NSSTC and the Department of Education maintained responsibility for their programs’ policy funding and grants administration, with the ARC responsible for any grants administration it undertook on their behalf.

Through RGS, we supported the application, assessment of grant applications for ONI (including facilitating expert peer review), and management of funded grants for ONI and NSSTC.

Through a Software as a Service agreement, RGS supported the Department of Education to manage its NCRIS and AEA grants programs through the ARC’s RMS grants management platform.

The ARC provided DAFF with expert identification services to assist them in finding the necessary research expertise to assess research elements related to the grant applications they had received.

Grant services for the NSSTC and AEA concluded at the end of the 2025–26 financial year, following the successful completion of post-award activities for NSSTC-funded grants under the NISDRG program and the cessation of future funding for the AEA Program announced in May 2026.

During 2026, the ARC commenced discussions with several Commonwealth entities to explore opportunities to expand collaborative research and grant administration activities.

Provide research policy advice

The ARC advises the Minister on a broad range of research matters that impact the research sector and its operating environment. We provide expert advice on research funding matters, research trends and career pathways. We engage and collaborate with government, universities, industry, and international stakeholders to monitor research trends, identifying areas for collaboration to ensure that the ARC retains our reputation as a world-class funding agency.

ARC's data and analysis capability enables our advanced economic modelling, which directly supports policy advice to government, reveals operational trends in the NCGP, and evaluates key drivers of research outcomes and impacts under different policy scenarios. These insights help guide strategic decisions not only within the ARC but also across government and industry.

This year, the ARC continued regular engagement with government agencies to improve connections and information sharing to the benefit of the sector, such as our partnership with the NHMRC to release joint policy statements on research integrity and AI use, furthering a coordinated approach to research policy. The ARC also worked closely with the NHMRC on aligning wording and requirements for the revised [ARC Open Access Policy](#), released in March 2026.

During 2025–26, the ARC further enhanced our data capability through project-level policy impact modelling, evidence-based analysis of the fairness and robustness of grant assessment processes, and the establishment of an in-house publication database to strengthen research intelligence. Automated reporting solutions and enhancements to the ARC Data Portal and NCGP public-facing dashboards improved the accessibility, quality and timeliness of data for staff, universities, policymakers and industry partners.

2.5 Performance results and analyses

Performance measure 1

The percentage of ARC schemes completed in time to meet ARC published timeframes				
Target	100% of scheme round outcomes are announced within the timeframes published on the ARC website			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	93.3%	100%	100%	92.3% (not achieved)
Methodology ⁶	The number of ARC schemes where outcomes were announced within the published timeframes on the ARC website against all ARC schemes where outcomes were announced, for the reporting period. A scheme is considered as announced on time when its outcomes are released within the published timeframe. The following assessment rules apply: • Where a scheme round includes multiple tranches of funding outcome announcements, the announcement date is defined as the date on which at least 95% of funding outcomes have been released • Where the final stages of the approval process are delayed due to a significant external event, such as a federal election, the scheme may still be considered as delivered on time.			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 17, PBS 2025–26 pages 144 and 148	Data source	ARC NCGP administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative and efficiency			
Outcome	NCGP application assessment processes are conducted in an efficient and timely manner			

⁶ The methodology for this measure has been expanded since publishing the *ARC Corporate Plan 2025–26* to consider instances where funding outcomes are announced in tranches. The measure is otherwise unchanged. This amendment outlines the 95% threshold and exception for significant external events, which is applied when determining if a scheme is announced on time.

Analysis of results

The ARC did not achieve performance measure 1. Our target was to announce 100% of NCGP scheme outcomes within the published timeframes on the ARC website.

During 2025–26, 12 of 13 scheme rounds were announced on time across both the Discovery Program and Linkage Program. The announcement of the ARC Centres of Excellence 2026 (CE26) scheme round was delayed due to due diligence and research security screening processes.

There were 4 scheme rounds during this period where some funding outcomes under these schemes were delayed as additional due diligence activities were required to address matters identified during the assessment process, under section 47(8) of the ARC Act.⁷ These scheme rounds were Discovery Projects 2026 (DP 2026), Linkage Projects 2025 round 1 (LP 2025 R1) and round 2 (LP 2025 R2) and Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities 2026 (LE 2026).⁸ For each of these schemes, more than 95% of funding outcomes were announced within the published timeframes and as such, are counted as 'announced on time' for the purpose of this measure.

When broken down by program, 4 of 4 schemes were announced on time for the Discovery Program; and 7 of 8 schemes were announced on time for the Linkage Program. There were 4 schemes where outcomes were announced earlier than the published announcement window.

The ARC uses timeliness as a proxy indicator of efficiency, driving the agency to implement processes that make the best use of ARC resources and to continually identify better ways to meet these timelines.

The ARC undertakes extensive forward planning to meet the announcement dates published on our [NCGP Scheme Calendar](#), with the ongoing aim to reduce the time taken between funding decisions and the announcement of results. During 2025–26, the Scheme Calendar was updated to reflect the expected announcements timeframes for the majority of funding outcomes, noting that additional due diligence and research security screening processes may extend finalisation of outcomes for some applications.

The ARC acknowledges that adherence to our stated timelines benefits researchers and partner organisations by providing more certainty of expected announcement of outcomes, allowing them to plan ahead. The ARC will continue to look for further opportunities to improve the timeliness of published announcements.

⁷ Linkage Projects scheme rounds are counted separately for the purpose of this performance measure.

⁸ Announcements were made on time for 1,111 of 1,123 DP 2026 applications (99%), 137 of 142 LP 2025 R1 applications (96%), 392 of 401 LP 2025 R2 applications (98%), and 129 of 133 LE 2026 applications (97%).

Performance measure 2

The percentage of submitted final reports reviewed on time				
Target	More than 90% of completed final reports submitted are reviewed by the ARC within 90 days of submission			
Results ⁹	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	97.33%	71.92%	91.02%	93.5% (achieved)
Methodology	Percentage of final reports processed within the reporting period i.e. finalised (approved/waived) or de-submitted back to the Research Office for action. 90 days is calculated from the last date of submission.			
Changes from previous year	This measure has been adjusted to focus on final reports, which if not processed within appropriate timeframes can impact applicants from submitting further grant applications			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 17, PBS 2025–26 pages 144 and 148	Data source	ARC NCGP administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative, efficiency and effectiveness			
Outcome	The ARC reviews completed final grant reports in a timely manner (within 90 days of submission) ¹⁰			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 2. Our target was to review over 90% of completed final reports that are submitted to the ARC within 90 days of submission.

During 2025–26, the ARC reviewed and processed 1,119 of the 1,197 (93.5%) submitted final reports within 90 days.

When broken down by program: we achieved this measure for the Discovery Program, with 922 of 989 (93.2%) reports reviewed on time; and achieved this measure for the Linkage Program, with 197 of 208 (94.7%) reports reviewed on time.

During 2025–26, the ARC implemented several process improvements to support the timely review of final reports. Resources were strategically redirected during peak reporting periods. Additionally, enhancements to data capability streamlined review, approval and monitoring processes. These initiatives improved operational efficiency and supported the achievement of the performance measure.

⁹ The results for 2022–23 to 2024–25 were retrospectively calculated to reflect this updated measure, which focuses on final reports only. The annual performance statements for previous years show different results as they were reported at the time on the basis of the percentage of submitted progress, End of Year and final reports reviewed on time.

¹⁰ The wording of this outcome was updated following the publication of the *Corporate Plan 2025–26*.

Performance measure 3

The proportion of appeals received for NCGP applications				
Target	The percentage of appeals received for all NCGP applications is less than 1%			
Results ¹¹	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	0.14%	0.02%	0.08%	0.00% (achieved)
Methodology	The percentage of appeals received for all NCGP applications in the specified reporting period			
Changes from previous year	This measure has been adjusted from the percentage of successful appeals to the proportion of appeals received for NCGP applications			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 18; PBS 2025–26 pages 144 and 148	Data source	ARC NCGP administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative and effectiveness			
Outcome	The ARC manages NCGP application and assessment processes fairly and in accordance with Grant Guidelines			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 3. Our target was for the percentage of appeals received for all NCGP applications to be less than 1%.

During 2025–26, funding outcomes were announced for 12 scheme rounds.¹² Of the 4,473 applications submitted for those scheme rounds, no appeals were received by the ARC.

When broken down by program: 3,362 applications were submitted for Discovery Program schemes; 1,111 applications were submitted for Linkage Program schemes.

The ARC acknowledges the importance of maintaining a strong connection with the sector and continues to work closely with the sector to ensure the application and assessment processes are fair, transparent and understood. This focus has resulted in a continued reduction of appeals received since the 2021–22 reporting period, with the ARC consistently meeting the target of less than 1% over the past 4 reporting periods (2022–23 to 2025–26).

¹¹ The results for 2022–23 to 2024–25 were retrospectively calculated to reflect this updated measure which focuses on the number of appeals received only. The annual performance statements for those previous years will show different results as they were reported at the time on the basis of the proportion of appeals upheld.

¹² Linkage Projects scheme rounds are counted separately for the purpose of this performance measure.

Performance measure 4

The percentage of ARC-funded research projects involving international collaboration for all ARC-funded research projects				
Target	More than 70% of research projects involve international collaboration			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	79.4%	79.5%	77.1%	79.1% (achieved)
Methodology	The number of research projects indicating actual international collaboration divided by the total number of research projects displayed as a percentage. Data based on collaboration with nominated country/countries as per final reports approved within the reporting period.			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 18; PBS 2025–26 pages 144 and 148	Data source	ARC NCGP administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative and output			
Outcome	The ARC funds a high proportion of projects involving international collaboration			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 4. Our target was that more than 70% of ARC-funded projects involved international collaboration.

Of the 1,197 research projects for which final reports were submitted and approved in 2025–26, 947 (79.1%) involved international collaboration.

One of the key goals of the NCGP is to foster international collaboration, to better support the aims of building new knowledge under the Discovery Program and the transfer of skills, knowledge and ideas as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research in areas of national priority (under the Linkage Program).

The continued achievement of this measure is a result of our commitment to creating and supporting international research collaboration opportunities. International collaboration is required or highly encouraged throughout our grant opportunity guidelines. This also reflects the research sector's recognition of the value and importance of international collaboration.

Performance measure 5

The average number of days to action research integrity investigation outcomes reported to the ARC				
Target	Investigations reported to the ARC Research Integrity Office are considered and actioned by the ARC in less than or equal to 30 working days on average			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	22 days	24 days	31 days (not achieved)
Methodology	The total number of working days for the ARC to action research integrity investigation outcomes divided by the total number of research integrity investigation outcomes actioned in the reporting period. Total days and total number include only research integrity investigation outcomes actioned in the reported period.			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Safeguard research integrity and security	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 18; PBS 2025–26 pages 144 and 148	Data source	ARC research integrity administrative register	
Measure types	Quantitative and efficiency			
Outcome	ARC-funded research is undertaken with integrity and complies with national codes on research ethics and the <i>ARC Research Integrity Policy</i>			

Analysis of results

The ARC did not achieve performance measure 5. Our target was to process and respond to the outcomes of research integrity investigations, reported to the ARC by institutions, in an average of 30 working days or less.

During the 2025–26 reporting period, the average number of working days it took for the ARC to process and respond to research integrity outcomes was 31 working days.

Of the 36 research integrity outcomes received in this period, the ARC Research Integrity team reviewed and responded to 20 (55.6%) matters within 30 working days. This is a decrease from 2024–25, where 78.3% of matters were finalised within 30 working days.

Processing and responding to these matters involves referring the outcome of investigations to the ARC's internal Research Integrity Review Committee (RIRC), submitting RIRC's recommendations for the ARC's response to the Senior Research Integrity Officer for clearance, and communicating the outcome and any relevant consequential actions to the institution.

The ARC uses timeliness as a proxy indicator of efficiency, driving the agency to implement processes that make the best use of ARC resources and to continually identify better ways to meet these timelines.

Progress against this performance measure has been impacted by a variety of factors including organisational change and prioritisation, implementation of new processes, resourcing constraints and staff turnover, and increased volume and complexity of research integrity matters reported by institutions.

The ARC will continue to look for efficiencies in its process to improve the timely actioning of research integrity matters.

Performance measure 6

The proportion of funded Chief Investigators who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researcher				
Target	The percentage of Chief Investigators who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researcher on funded applications is higher than the previous reporting period			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	1.95%	2.01%	2.24% (achieved)
Methodology	The percentage of unique Chief Investigators who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researcher on funded applications, as a proportion of the total percentage of unique researchers on funded applications under the NCGP, for an average of 4 years. The target will be met if the result is greater than the figure calculated for the previous reporting year.			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 19; PBS 2025–26 pages 145 and 148	Data source	ARC NCGP administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative and output			
Outcome	ARC grant activities support leadership of projects by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 6. Our target was for the rolling average of Chief Investigators who identify as an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researcher on funded applications over a 4-year period (1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026) to be greater than the previous 4-year period (1 July 2021 to 30 June 2025).

Over the 4-year period between 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2026, 178 out of 7,959 (2.24%) unique Chief Investigators on ARC-funded grants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. The proportion increased from the previous 4-year reporting period where 193 out of 9,603 (2.01%) unique Chief Investigators on ARC-funded grants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

During 2025–26, 59 out of 2,936 (2.01%) unique Chief Investigators on ARC-funded grants identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander. When broken down by program: 39 out of 1,663 (2.35%) unique Chief Investigators funded under the Discovery Program identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander; and 23 out of 1,487 (1.55%) unique Chief Investigators funded under the Linkage Program identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities make vital knowledge contributions to university research across all disciplines. The ARC supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers and recognises the traditional knowledge of our Indigenous peoples. However, as outlined in the NCGP Policy Review final report, the ARC has identified opportunities for further improvement, noting that Indigenous researchers remain underrepresented in the university sector and the NCGP. Building the pipeline of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers also builds Australian research system capability that is essential for growing academic knowledge and addressing complex social challenges.

The ARC is committed to supporting and recognising the need to expand Indigenous knowledge systems and recognise traditional knowledge owners. The ARC aims to support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander research and researchers across all NCGP schemes and provides specific opportunities through targeted programs. A key example of this is the Discovery Indigenous scheme, which supports research programs led by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers and builds the research capacity of higher degree research students and early-career researchers.

This measure aligns with one of 6 key areas under consideration in the Policy Review of the NCGP, which is to advance support for Indigenous Australian research and researchers. This examines the capacity of the NCGP to promote Indigenous academic leadership, strengthen the pipeline of emerging Indigenous researchers, and support Indigenous research and knowledge systems that will benefit the community.

Performance measure 7

The percentage of approved projects where the Administering Organisation is notified within 21 days of approval				
Target	Administering Organisations are notified within 21 days for all (100%) approved projects			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	100%	100% (achieved)
Methodology	The percentage of approved project notifications sent to administering organisations within 21 days throughout the reporting period			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 19; PBS 25–26 pages 145 and 148	Data source	ARC administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative and output			
Outcome	NCGP application decisions are communicated in accordance with the <i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i>			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 7. Our target was to notify Administering Organisations within 21 days for all (100%) of the approved projects, consistent with reporting obligations under the ARC Act.

During 2025–26, there were 4,473 of 4,473 (100%) approved project notifications sent to Administering Organisations within 21 days during the reporting period.

When broken down by program: 3,362 projects approved for Discovery Program schemes and 1,111 projects approved for Linkage Program schemes were sent notifications within 21 days.

Our internal processes on outcome announcement preparations include extensive forward planning, rigorous testing of our systems and providing advance notice on social media. This helps maintain accountability and transparency of the announcement process.

Adherence to these timeframes benefits researchers and partner organisations by reducing uncertainty around the expected timing of outcomes announcements, enabling them to plan staffing, project activities and funding arrangements with greater confidence.

The ARC communicates grant funding outcomes directly to applicants and university Research Offices through our Research Management System (RMS). Applicants and research offices receive automated system generated emails notifying them of funding outcomes. This ensures the efficiency and effectiveness of the announcement process.

Performance measure 8

The ARC peer review process identifies research excellence				
Target	The ARC achieves this measure by using a robust peer review process to make funding recommendations based on expertise representing the breadth of research fields funded by the ARC, and through close engagement with the research sector			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	Achieved	Achieved
Methodology	The ARC has identified 3 reporting mechanisms (with defined targets) to determine whether the ARC peer review process identifies research excellence. The ARC considers the mechanisms identified appropriate to assess the overall measure.			
Changes from previous year	The 2025–26 target for reporting mechanism 3 has been established based on baseline results from 2024–25			
Related programs	1.1 and 1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 20; PBS 2025–26 pages 145 and 148			
Measure types	Quantitative and output			
Outcome	The ARC uses a robust peer review process to make funding recommendations based on expertise representing the breadth of research fields funded by the ARC, and through close engagement with the research sector			

Reporting mechanism 1: The percentage of full applications that receive a minimum of 2 peer review assessments per application across all NCGP schemes				
Target	More than or equal to 90% of applications receive a minimum of 2 peer review assessments			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	98.7%	99.6% (achieved)
Methodology	The number of peer review assessments per full application across all NCGP schemes, except for Special Research Initiatives (SRIs) and Linkage Learned Academies Special Projects (LASPs), is divided by the total number of full applications assessed displayed as a percentage			
Data sources	ARC NCGP administrative database			

Reporting mechanism 2: The percentage of different Fields of Research the ARC College of Experts covers reflecting broad experience and expertise of the College

Target	ARC College of Experts represents more than or equal to 80% of the total number of Fields of Research (FoR) covered by the NCGP			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	86.9%	87.3% (achieved)
Methodology	The FoR codes assigned to each member of the College of Experts is divided by the total number of FoR codes as classified by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC)			
Data sources	ARC NCGP administrative database			

Reporting mechanism 3: The number of communication and engagement activities where the ARC promotes, educates or recognises participation in, the peer review process

Target	The number of communication and engagement activities held or attended by the ARC – where the ARC promoted, educated or recognised participation in the peer review process – is more than or equal to the previous year			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	40 (baseline result)	43 (achieved)
Methodology	The total number of events attended or held by the ARC during the reporting period which were reported to promote, educate or recognise participation in the peer review process			
Data sources	ARC Communications and Engagement register			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 8. Our target was to use a robust peer review process to make funding recommendations based on expertise representing the breadth of research fields funded by the ARC, and through close engagement with the research sector.

There were 3 defined reporting mechanisms used to assess the ARC's achievement of this target. During 2025–26, all 3 reporting mechanisms were achieved.

Reporting mechanism 1: The percentage of full applications that receive a minimum of 2 peer review assessments per application across all NCGP schemes

The ARC achieved this reporting mechanism. Our target was for 90% or more of applications to receive a minimum of 2 peer-review assessments. This balanced approach demonstrates the ARC's commitment to ensuring that government funding is spent on the highest quality research that will advance knowledge and benefit the community.

During 2025–26, 2,629 of 2,638 (99.66%) applications received a minimum of 2 peer-review assessments. Broken down by scheme, 1,513 of 1,519 (99.61%) applications received under the Discovery Program received a minimum of 2 peer-review assessments; 1,116 of 1,119 (99.73%) applications received under the Linkage Program received a minimum of 2 peer-review assessments.

Peer review is a core process used by the ARC to identify excellent research. Timely and reliable assessments are critical to maintaining the integrity and efficiency of ARC's peer review process.

Peer review is undertaken by detailed assessors, who are disciplinary experts from within academia, and general assessors sourced from the ARC College of Experts. The ARC engages peer reviewers directly through assignment of applications for assessment through RMS.

Assessors are provided 4–6 weeks in which to assess applications. The ARC supports the assessors during this process via comprehensive guidance and training through assessor handbooks, direct engagement through webinars, assessment meetings and through outreach and engagement.

The ARC's approach to early assessor engagement, proactive follow-up strategies and risk mitigation strategies have contributed to this outcome.

Reporting mechanism 2: The percentage of different Fields of Research the ARC College of Experts covers reflecting broad experience and expertise of the College

The ARC achieved this mechanism. Our target was for 80% or more Fields of Research (FoR) codes to be represented by members of the ARC College of Experts.

During 2025–26, 186 of the 213 (87.32%) FoR codes are represented by the 432 College members.

FoR codes are one of 3 classifications developed by the Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification (ANZSRC) to measure and analyse research and experimental development statistics in Australia and New Zealand. FoR codes allow research and development activity to be categorised according to common knowledge domains and/or methodologies used.

The ARC has a rigorous nomination process for researchers wishing to become members of the College led by the ARC Board.

Having broad expertise across the College is fundamental to ensuring that the ARC funds the highest quality research as well as providing applicants with useful, constructive feedback for future applications.

Reporting mechanism 3: The number of communication and engagement activities where the ARC promotes, educates or recognises participation in, the peer review process

The ARC achieved this mechanism. Our target was for the number of communication and engagement activities held or attended by the ARC – where the ARC promoted, educated, or recognised participation in the peer review process – was more than or equal to the previous year.

During 2025–26, 43 out of 271 (15.9%) communication or engagement activities attended by the ARC included promotion, education, or recognition of the peer review process.

Performance measure 9

The total contribution from Partner Organisations for all research projects funded under the Linkage Projects scheme				
Target	Average dollar contribution is more than or equal to the previous year			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	\$1.65	\$1.46	\$1.48	\$1.43 (not achieved)
Methodology	Total Partner Organisation contribution (cash and in-kind funding) divided by total ARC funding for the same scheme round. Includes all funded Linkage Projects where outcomes were finalised within the reporting period.			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	1.2	Related key activity	Fund high-quality, impactful research	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 21; PBS 2025–26 page 148	Data source	ARC NCGP administrative database	
Measure types	Quantitative and effectiveness			
Outcome	The ARC fosters an environment for collaboration between researchers and partner organisations. Total contribution from partner organisations for every ARC dollar is equal to or higher than the previous year.			

Analysis of results

The ARC did not achieve performance measure 9. Our target was for the average dollar contribution from Partner Organisations, within the Linkage Projects scheme, to be greater than or equal to the previous year.

In 2025–26, our result was \$1.43, which is less than our 2024–25 result of \$1.48. The result is influenced by the level of cash and in-kind contributions provided by Partner Organisations, which may vary from year to year, depending on the circumstances and funding arrangements of individual projects.

In 2025–26, the ARC awarded \$123.3 million in funding across 227 research projects under the Linkage Projects scheme. Of those applications, the total contribution from Partner Organisations was \$176.6 million. The contributions from Partner Organisations for individual projects ranged from \$155,259 to \$5,321,293, with a median contribution of \$658,500.

These investments showcase the ARC's role in supporting high-quality research across all disciplines (except medical research) to strengthen national capability, productivity and long-term solutions that benefit Australians today and in the future. They will also strengthen partnerships between Australia's leading researchers, industry, government, and the community.

Under the Linkage Projects scheme, the combined cash and in-kind contributions pledged by partner organisations are required to match, at a minimum, the funding sought from the ARC.

The aim of the NCGP is to fund the highest quality research, with partner contributions being just one element that is considered when assessing the overall strength of an application. Assessors consider partner contribution in the context of the research project's response to the assessment criteria of the scheme. Partner contributions are one of the factors considered in selecting projects, alongside the quality of the proposed research and its response to the scheme's assessment criteria. While the level of partner contributions can vary between funding rounds, results over time continue to demonstrate strong partner contributions to funded research.

Partner contributions are monitored and updated throughout the project activity period to ensure that minimum contributions are maintained.

Performance measure 10

Design a new approach for evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of Australian university research				
Target	The ARC develops a new research evaluation framework to evaluate research excellence, impact and depth in Australia			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	N/A	Substantially achieved
Methodology	The measure will be met if the ARC develops a proposal for a new research evaluation and impact framework			
Changes from previous year	This measure was revised following publication of the ARC Corporate Plan 2024–25 to reflect the work being undertaken on the development of a new National Research Evaluation and Impact Framework. The target for this measure was adjusted to ‘not applicable’ for the 2024–25 reporting period as this work is ongoing. 2025–26 is the first year that reporting for this measure will occur.			
Related programs	1.3	Related key activity	Evaluate research excellence, impact and depth	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 21; PBS 2025–26 page 149	Data source	Framework proposal and associated project management documentation	
Measure types	Qualitative and output			
Outcome	The ARC has a proposal for a new research evaluation framework which will evaluate the excellence, impact and depth of Australian research			

Analysis of results

The ARC substantially achieved measure 10. Our target was to develop a proposal for a new research evaluation and impact framework. Following amendments to the *Corporate Plan 2024–25*, this is the first year that reporting has been undertaken on this measure.

The draft framework approach for the Research Insights Capability (RIC) was presented to the ARC Board during 2025 and 2026. These discussions supported Board approval to establish sector-led RIC working groups, progress draft dashboard development, and adopt responsible research assessment principles to inform the RIC's approach to inclusive, transparent and robust evaluation.

In June 2025, the ARC published the [ARC Research Data Framework](#) to support data reforms underpinning RIC. Actions to date include:

- publishing a [Persistent Identifier \(PID\) Action Plan](#) in June 2025 to strengthen research data linkage
- publishing a revised [ARC Open Access Policy](#) with enhanced requirements to support future RIC data reporting
- embedding Indigenous Data Sovereignty principles in the 2026 update to the ARC Open Access Policy
- publishing [Responsible Research Assessment Principles](#) in June 2026 and signing the Declaration on Research Assessment
- developing a draft FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) Data policy in anticipation of formal public consultation in the second half of 2026.

In April 2026, the ARC updated the sector on consultation undertaken from June to December 2025. A summary of the update can be found on the [ARC website](#). Resulting from this update, the ARC has progressed establishment of the RIC sector-led working groups to develop the detail required to underpin RIC. Meetings will commence during the second half of 2026 with interim reporting anticipated at the end of 2026.

The ARC will continue strengthening data capability and refining the concept dashboards to support external input and inform ongoing framework development.

Performance measure 11

The ARC provides expert advice on research across government				
Target	The ARC achieves this measure by providing timely and expert advice on research across government			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	Achieved	Achieved
Methodology	The ARC has identified 3 reporting mechanisms (with defined targets) to assess whether the ARC provides expert advice on research across government. The ARC considers the mechanisms identified appropriate to assess the overall measure.			
Changes from previous year	The 2025–26 target for reporting mechanism 2 has been established based on baseline results from 2024–25. Wording for reporting mechanism 3 has been amended to reflect the change of title from ‘Executive Directors’ to ‘Academic Directors’. This change better reflects the academic leadership role these positions have within the ARC.			
Related programs	1.1, 1.2 and 1.3	Related key activity	Provide research policy advice	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 22; PBS 2025–26 pages 145, 148 and 149			
Measure types	Quantitative and output			
Outcome	The ARC is a trusted source of advice on research matters across government			
Reporting mechanism 1: The ARC provides expert advice to parliamentary inquiries on research across government within timeframes provided				
Target	100% of responses to parliamentary inquiries are submitted within the timeframes provided			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	100%	N/A
Methodology	The number of parliamentary inquiries responded to by the ARC on time (i.e. as per the submission due date outlined in the inquiry request) is divided by the total number of parliamentary inquiries received by the ARC and displayed as a percentage			
Data sources	ARC Parliamentary Inquiry register			

Reporting mechanism 2: The number of government committees and forums on research attended by the ARC

Target	The ARC attends a total of 15 government committees and forums on research			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	17 (benchmark result)	43 (achieved)
Methodology	The number of inter-departmental committee meetings, conferences and forums on research attended by ARC staff			
Data sources	ARC Communications and Engagement register			

Reporting mechanism 3: The number of senior academics engaged as Academic Directors who provide the ARC with expert advice on research

Target	The average number of Academic Directors engaged by the ARC across the year will be more than or equal to 3			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	5	5 (achieved)
Methodology	The number of Academic Directors engaged by ARC each quarter of the reporting period is divided by 4			
Data sources	ARC employment records			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 11. Our target was for the ARC to be a trusted source of advice on research matters across government.

There were 3 defined reporting mechanisms used to assess the ARC’s achievement of this target. During 2025–26, 2 of 3 reporting mechanisms were achieved.¹³

Reporting mechanism 1: The ARC provides expert advice to parliamentary inquiries on research across government within timeframes provided

This reporting mechanism will be considered as not applicable for the reporting year as there were no parliamentary inquiries received by the ARC during 2025–26. Our target was 100% of responses to parliamentary inquiries submitted within the timeframes provided.

¹³ If a sub-measure has no available data or is not applicable for the reporting period, its target will be considered met solely for the purpose of this calculation. However, for transparency its reported status must still be shown as ‘no data’ or ‘not applicable’.

Reporting mechanism 2: The number of government committees and forums on research attended by the ARC

The ARC achieved this mechanism. Our target was that the ARC attends a total of 15 government committees and forums on research.

During 2025–26, ARC representatives attended 43 government committees, forums, or other events on research. This is an increase on the 2024–25 result, where ARC representatives attended 17 events that met this criterion during the reporting period.

The ARC's engagement in these forums reflects its active role in shaping, informing and aligning national research policy. Attendance was influenced by existing partnerships with key Commonwealth entities, the ARC's policy advisory role, and invitations to contribute to whole-of-government initiatives. Scheduling constraints and limited resourcing occasionally limited broader participation.

Participation in government committees and forums enables the ARC to represent the interests of the national research sector, share data-driven insights, and contribute to coordinated policy development. It also supports interagency collaboration and ensures the ARC remains aligned with emerging priorities in the research and innovation landscape.

Reporting mechanism 3: The number of senior academics engaged as Academic Directors who provide the ARC with expert advice on research

The ARC achieved this mechanism. Our target was for the ARC to engage at least 3 Academic Directors on average during the reporting period.

During 2025–26, the ARC engaged 5 Academic Directors on average. This maintains our result from the previous reporting period, when the ARC engaged 5 Academic Directors on average.

The Academic Directors were for: Engineering and Information Sciences; Humanities and Creative Arts; Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences; Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences; Biological Sciences and Biotechnology. The ARC is in the process of recruiting an additional Academic Director (Indigenous).

Academic Directors play an important role in engaging and liaising with the research community and using their academic expertise to contribute to ARC programs, policies, and peer review processes.

Performance measure 12

Partners are satisfied with the services provided by Research Grants Services				
Target	100% of partners are satisfied with the services provided by ARC’s Research Grants Services			
Results	2022–23	2023–24	2024–25	2025–26
	N/A	N/A	100%	100% (achieved) ¹⁴
Methodology	All ARC RGS partners will be surveyed. The survey will allow partners to rate their satisfaction with the services provided by RGS.			
Changes from previous year	Nil			
Related programs	Nil	Related key activity	Provide research grant services to government entities	
Measure sources	Corporate Plan 2025–26 page 22 ¹⁵	Data source	RGS Partner Survey results	
Measure types	Quantitative and output			
Outcome	ARC’s RGS are high-quality, fit for purpose and meet the needs of partners			

Analysis of results

The ARC achieved performance measure 12. Our target was for 100% of our RGS partners to be satisfied with the services provided by the ARC's RGS. The ARC meets regularly with our RGS partners to ensure that their programs are running smoothly. Partners are regularly kept up to date, and active matters are appropriately resolved.

During 2025–26, the ARC partnered with 4 Commonwealth entities to deliver research grants by those other entities via our RGS. Regarding services provided by RGS during the 2025–26 reporting period, 3 of 4 RGS partners indicated that they were satisfied with the services they received. One partner elected not to provide a response to the RGS survey. Accordingly, the results are based on the responses of the 3 participating partners, resulting in an overall score of 100%.

Survey results from partners during 2025–26 were positive, highlighting the ARC team's professionalism, expertise, and commitment to delivering high-quality services and outcomes. Partners emphasised the responsiveness and stakeholder-focused approach, proactive engagement, and a strong understanding of organisational needs. Feedback indicated that the ARC's contributions supported partner organisations to achieve their intended outcomes and maintain effective program delivery throughout the year.

¹⁴ Where an RGS partner does not provide a valid survey response for the reporting period, the result is calculated based on valid responses received.

¹⁵ This measure was not included in the 2025–26 PBS as it is not linked to the programs described in the PBS.

The quality of advice and practical guidance were identified as key strengths. While feedback identified continued opportunities to improve access to program data through expanded API functionality, overall partner sentiment remained highly positive, with stakeholders highlighting strong collaborative relationships and the delivery of services that met or, in some instances, exceeded expectations.

PART 03

Management and accountability

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3.1 Research grant administration

NCGP Committees

Selection Advisory Committees

Selection Advisory Committees (SACs) provide recommendations to the ARC Board on which applications should be funded and how much funding successful applications should receive for final decision by either the Board (non-designated research programs) or the Minister for Education (designated research programs). The size and structure of each SAC is influenced by the nature of the grant opportunity and the volume and research disciplines of submitted applications. SACs usually consist of College members but may also include non-College members such as distinguished academic researchers, industry researchers, and other research experts.

The Discovery Early Career Researcher Award, Discovery Projects and Future Fellowships schemes use a SAC structure with 5 disciplinary panels. The Early Career Industry Fellowships scheme has a SAC structure with 4 disciplinary panels.

A single, combined multi-disciplinary SAC structure is used for the following schemes: ARC Centres of Excellence, Australian Laureate Fellowships, Discovery Indigenous, Industrial Transformation Research Hubs, Industrial Transformation Training Centres, Industry Laureate Fellowships, Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities, Linkage Projects, Mid-Career Industry Fellowships and Special Research Initiatives.

NCGP Appeals Committee

The NCGP Appeals Committee considers appeals submitted to the ARC in relation to the NCGP. The committee operates independently to ensure rigour and makes recommendations to the ARC Board about whether appeals should be allowed or dismissed. They also provide general advice to the ARC about modifications and improvements to the ARC's administrative processes. The committee consists of external members appointed by the Branch Manager, Programs and Services.

The NCGP Appeals Committee members for 2025–26 were:

- Professor Patrick Kluth
- Ms Sayuri Grady
- Professor Maria Forsyth
- Professor Julie McLeod
- Professor Lynette Russell.

The NCGP Appeals Committee did not meet in 2025–26.

Medical Research Advisory Group

The ARC's Medical Research Advisory Group (MRAG) is responsible for providing additional technical advice regarding eligibility for selected applications. Where the ARC considers that additional expertise is required to determine eligibility under the ARC Medical Research Policy, the application is referred to MRAG members for written advice. Each application requiring additional expertise is referred to at least 3 MRAG members.

MRAG members may be from the current or past College of Experts, or demonstrate sufficient seniority to have a broad overview of research, particularly within research disciplines where there is potential for an overlap with medical research. Advice from MRAG members is considered by the ARC in forming eligibility recommendations to the ARC Board for final decision.

Grant programs

GrantConnect is the Australian 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 Grant Rules and Principles](#). GrantConnect is the authoritative source of information in relation to Australian Government grant opportunities and grant opportunity 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 2025–26 is available on the [ARC website](#). The ARC also provides access to NCGP data through [ARC Grants Search](#), which forms part of the agency's [Grants Dataset](#).

Research integrity and security

National codes and statements on research ethics

Research institutions operate within a national framework underpinned by high-level policies. This framework consists of:

- the [Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research](#) (Code)
- the [AIATSIS Code of Ethics for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research](#)
- codes relating to [ethical conduct in human research](#) and [research involving animals](#)
- a suite of best practice implementation [guidelines](#).

The ARC is a co-author of the Code. Management of research integrity in Australia is a shared responsibility that involves the ARC, the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and a range of other institutions and entities. There is no single Commonwealth agency with regulatory powers for the management or oversight of research integrity in Australia. Responsibility for the various aspects of research integrity is shared among institutions that conduct research; funding agencies; and agencies such as Ombudsman Offices, Crime and Corruption Commissions and the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency.

Research integrity matters relating to ARC business

The ARC expects the highest standards of integrity among those who conduct ARC business, including assessors, applicants and researchers. Institutions undertaking research take responsibility for building a research culture of quality and excellence and managing research integrity arrangements. This includes providing education and training for staff, managing complaints, conducting investigations of allegations of misconduct, and applying appropriate sanctions.

The ARC is not an investigative body, and matters cannot be referred to the ARC Research Integrity Office for review. Compliance with the Code and its accompanying guidelines is a condition of research funding from the ARC, including reporting breaches of the codes by the research institution.

During 2025–26, the ARC Research Integrity Office finalised 67 research integrity matters. These included:

- 12 matters where institutions reported breaches of the Code and the ARC took action in response
- 13 matters where an institution reported a breach of the Code and the ARC determined that no additional ARC action was required, as the breach was minor, and the corrective action taken by the institution was considered sufficient
- 11 matters in which the allegations were dismissed following institutional preliminary assessments or investigations
- 31 matters resolved by the relevant institution or the ARC without requiring a preliminary assessment, because the allegations were unsubstantiated, there was insufficient information available to provide grounds for proceeding to preliminary assessments, or other factors.

As at 30 June 2026, 50 active matters were being assessed or investigated by institutions and/or considered by the ARC.

More information is available in the [ARC Research Integrity Policy](#).

Australian Research Integrity Committee

The Australian Research Integrity Committee (ARIC) comprises 9 expert members (**Table 5**) and reports to both the ARC and the NHMRC.

During 2025–26, the ARIC–ARC secretariat received 11 new requests for review. It also provided support to ARIC in relation to 11 cases received in previous financial years.

In relation to the 22 ARIC–ARC matters active in 2025–26, as of 30 June 2026:

- 10 reviews were finalised during the period and the outcome communicated to the relevant parties by the ARC
- 3 requests for review were determined to be invalid or outside the scope of ARIC
- 9 reviews were ongoing.

Table 5: Membership of the ARIC (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

Member	Term of appointment
Emeritus Professor Michael Brooks (Chair)	April 2024 – July 2026
Emeritus Professor Alan Lawson (Deputy Chair)	April 2024 – July 2026
Professor Margaret Otlowski (Deputy Chair)	April 2024 – July 2026
Mr Michael Chilcott	April 2024 – July 2026
Emeritus Professor John Finlay-Jones	April 2024 – July 2026
Professor Gerald Holtmann	April 2024 – July 2026
Dr Jane Jacobs	October 2023 – July 2026
Emeritus Professor Robyn Owens	October 2023 – July 2026
Emeritus Professor Alan Pettigrew	October 2023 – July 2026

Research security

While universities have primary responsibility for managing research security risks, the ARC continues to strengthen its processes for identifying and assessing risks associated with funding decisions, working with universities and other stakeholders to support the Australian Government's expectations for research integrity and security. To assist universities to understand and meet expectations in relation to NCGP funding, the new [ARC Research Security Framework](#) was released in May 2026. The framework sets out how the ARC identifies and manages risks to Australia's security, defence and international relations across the grant lifecycle.

Consistent with the University Foreign Interference Taskforce's [Guidelines to Counter Foreign Interference in the Australian University Sector](#), the ARC has processes to support risk identification and mitigation. Research security is considered in relation to NCGP applications, funded projects, variations, committee members, and potential sensitivities identified through ARC business. Assessing research security risks is an important part of the ARC's grant decision making and management. The CEO, the ARC Board and the Minister for Education each have important responsibilities to mitigate research security risks affecting ARC-funded research.

3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance

Fraud and corruption management

In accordance with section 10 of the PGPA Rule, the ARC's accountable authority must take all reasonable measures to prevent, detect and respond to fraud and corruption relating to the agency, including all ARC officials, service providers or third parties who interact with the ARC.

The Chief Financial Officer is responsible for investigating or otherwise responding to all cases of suspected fraud and corruption. The Chief Financial Officer provides appropriate fraud and corruption information to the ARC Audit and Risk Committee (see [Section 1.3](#)).

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 our assets are safeguarded against loss by fraud or negligence. Management ensures that opportunities for fraud or corruption are minimised. ARC staff are required to implement and adhere to fraud and corruption control procedures and report all instances of suspected fraud or corruption.

The ARC Fraud and Corruption Control Plan complies with the [Commonwealth Fraud and Corruption Control Framework](#). Fraud and corruption control activities undertaken by the ARC during 2025–26 included:

- Promoting International Fraud Awareness Week (16 to 22 November 2025) across the agency including sharing fraud prevention resources provided by the Commonwealth Fraud Prevention Centre
- Providing Integrity training to all ARC staff in October 2025 including training on managing fraud and corruption risks
- Reviewing the ARC's fraud and corruption risks in July and December 2025 as part of the ARC's biannual operational risk reviews.

Internal audits

The ARC uses internal audits to provide an independent and objective review and advisory service. The internal audit plan is informed by the Audit and Risk Committee and approved by the ARC Board. This function provides the accountable authority with assurance that our financial and operational controls manage the ARC's risks appropriately. Internal audits also assist management in improving our business performance.

The ARC's internal audit function is managed by the Head, Internal Audit, which at the time of reporting is the Branch Manager, Policy and Performance. The internal auditor role is outsourced to an independent service provider and reports to the ARC Audit and Risk Committee through the Head, Internal Audit.

In 2025–26, our internal auditor, McGrathNicol Advisory, assisted in the development of an annual internal audit work plan; attended ARC Audit and Risk Committee meetings; and completed a number of internal audit activities.

During 2025–26, the ARC requested McGrathNicol Advisory to conduct 2 internal audits: one on accounts payable and the other on compliance with the relevant legislation. There was also a review on the ARC's NCGP probity uplift.

Risk oversight and management

The ARC Board has overall responsibility for risk management at the ARC, setting the ARC's desired risk appetite and tolerance, and assessing strategic risks. The CEO and senior management work with the ARC Board to promote and communicate risk management strategies and practices within the ARC, managing strategic and operational risks (including fraud and corruption) and their controls; monitoring the management of shared risks; and reviewing the ARC Risk Management Framework.

Business areas routinely monitor the ARC's risk environment and review their risks and controls through a centralised online governance and risk management system. Risk information from all business areas is periodically reported to the ARC Board, CEO and senior management. The ARC Audit and Risk Committee review the appropriateness of the ARC's system of risk oversight and management and system of internal controls.

The ARC Risk Management Framework aligns with the [*Commonwealth Risk Management Policy*](#) and supports our staff in carrying out risk management effectively.

The ARC has 5 key strategic risks that could affect the agency's achievement of its objectives. As at 30 June 2026, the ARC's strategic risk themes were:

- Strategic leadership on research policy matters
- ARC-funded research demonstrates expected value and impact
- Protecting and upholding security, integrity and compliance in the administration of research funding
- Complying with legislative requirements and government policies
- Building and sustaining the ARC's organisational capability and culture to achieve its mission.

The Board, CEO and senior management review the ARC's strategic risks and controls twice yearly, and the implementation of risk treatments are regularly tracked and reported on as part of this review process.

Furthermore, the ARC also reviews its operational risks and controls biannually, to ensure that business areas have a risk approach embedded into processes and planning to assist with delivery against the activities outlined in the corporate and operational plans.

The ARC is committed to preserving public confidence in the integrity, legitimacy, impartiality, and fairness of its business. Members of the ARC Board, 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.

Business continuity and disaster recovery

The ARC's Business Continuity Plan 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 Disaster Recovery Plan, which is designed to safeguard and recover critical ICT systems.

External scrutiny

Judicial decisions, decisions of administrative tribunals and by the Australian Information Commissioner

There were no decisions from any court during 2025–26 that had, or may have, a significant impact on the operations of the ARC.

There were no significant decisions during 2025–26 by an administrative tribunal or the Australian Information Commissioner.

Reports on ARC operations by the Auditor-General

During 2025–26, the ARC was not directly involved in any performance audits conducted by the Australian National Audit Office (ANAO).

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

Reports on ARC operations by the Commonwealth Ombudsman

During 2025–26, the Ombudsman's office did not conduct any investigations into ARC business.

Agency capability reviews

No capability reviews of the ARC were conducted or released during 2025–26.

Parliamentary services and reporting to Parliamentary Committees

During 2025–26, ARC officials appeared before the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee for:

- Additional Budget Estimates on 12 February 2026
- Budget Estimates on 5 June 2026.

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. In compliance with the FOI Act, information relating to the Information Publication Scheme is published on the [ARC website](#).

3.3 People, capability and remuneration

Learning and development

During 2025–26, the ARC supported staff capability, compliance and professional growth through a range of learning and development opportunities, including essential eLearning, induction activities, in-house training, coaching, studies assistance, online seminars and access to external conferences and other training programs.

Staff performance agreements continued to provide a mechanism for employees and managers to identify development needs, set performance expectations and support ongoing career conversations.

All new starters completed an induction program covering core Australian Public Service (APS) and ARC requirements, including integrity, fraud awareness, child safety, diversity and inclusion, and an introduction to the ARC and the impact of the NCGP.

Employees were also required to complete essential eLearning modules to support a safe, respectful and accountable workplace. In 2025–26, these modules covered topics including:

- multicultural awareness
- modern slavery in public procurement
- AI in government
- fraud and corruption
- workplace sexual harassment
- work health and safety
- ethical decision-making
- appropriate workplace behaviour
- security awareness
- bullying and harassment.

The ARC also provided optional learning opportunities that supported employee wellbeing, inclusion and career development. These included training on psychosocial hazards, First Nations awareness, trauma-informed workplaces and working away from the office, alongside other development activities aligned with organisational priorities.

Internal online seminars continued to connect staff with partners and stakeholders and provided insights into ARC-funded projects and issues relevant to the agency. In 2025–26, 3 seminars were held on topics including Centres of Excellence for Indigenous Futures, reducing prejudice and improving social cohesion, and agentic AI and its role in the global research system.

Artificial intelligence and data capability

During 2025–26, the ARC advanced its organisational AI and data capabilities and identified opportunities to support business activities across the organisation, including the delivery of the NCGP. This work was supported by appropriate oversight and a commitment to maintaining trust and confidence in our work.

Artificial Intelligence

As outlined in the [ARC AI Transparency Statement](#), the ARC is committed to harnessing the opportunities presented by AI, while ensuring that our use of it is appropriate, responsible and ethical. The ARC complies with the [Policy for the responsible use of AI in government](#), and other relevant guidance regarding government standards for AI use.

During 2025–26, the ARC strengthened its governance arrangements for AI through the appointment of a Chief AI Officer and the establishment of an AI Working Group. The working group provides oversight of the agency's AI use cases and assesses opportunities for the responsible adoption of AI technologies.

The ARC also released an internal AI Acceptable Use Policy, establishing mandatory requirements for personnel using AI systems and supporting the responsible adoption of AI across the organisation.

In April 2026, the ARC also released a separate policy to outline its expectations for the use of AI by grant applicants and ARC assessors. The *Policy on Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence in the ARC's grants programs* is available on the [ARC website](#).

Data

The ARC is a custodian of research data and maintains the trust of stakeholders through its responsible management and use. The ARC is committed to leveraging data to maximise its impact across the Australian research sector, strengthen its capacity to provide evidence-based advice, and enhance understanding of the research landscape.

In 2025–26, the ARC progressed its data capability through the implementation of its internal Data Strategy and supporting policies. This included measures to strengthen data stewardship and promote better-practice data management. Secure systems, governance arrangements and automated safeguards supported privacy, confidentiality and responsible data use, while helping to build organisational capability and analytical maturity.

In support of these efforts, we released the [ARC Research Data Framework](#). This framework comprises a set of initiatives to strengthen data capability, improve research data practices, and increase access to research outputs and datasets, enabling the effective use of data to maximise the value of public investment in research.

APS Strategic Commissioning Framework

The [APS Strategic Commissioning Framework](#) is part of the government’s commitment to reduce inappropriate outsourcing and strengthen the capability of the APS.

In 2025–26, the ARC took steps to bring core work in-house in line with the framework, including in the Portfolio, Program and Project Management job family. No reduction target was set for the year. An actual reduction of \$316,123 (GST excluded) in relevant supplier expenditure was achieved.

Equity and inclusion

The ARC is committed to a safe, respectful and inclusive workplace culture. The [ARC Diversity and Inclusion Framework 2024–2026](#) encompasses several diversity plans and policies that enable work to remove barriers and embrace the diversity of our people with the aim of creating a truly inclusive workplace.

The ARC also supports equity, diversity, and inclusion in the Australian research workforce. This commitment was a key consideration in the Policy Review of the NCGP and will be reflected in a range of new policy and implementation measures as part of the new NCGP and the ARC Strategy.

Employment arrangements and remuneration

The [ARC Enterprise Agreement 2024–2027](#) (ARC Enterprise Agreement) outlines the employment arrangements for all non-Senior Executive Service (SES) ARC staff. This agreement integrates agreed common terms across all APS agencies such as improvements to parental leave, and an improved pay offer.

The ARC Enterprise Agreement also allows eligible staff to make an individual flexibility arrangement to vary the effect of terms of the agreement. Individual flexibility arrangements 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.

Employment agreements for ARC SES staff are set out by common law contracts. A breakdown of all ARC employment arrangements is provided in **Table 6**.

The ARC’s Work Health and Safety arrangements, provided in accordance with schedule 2, part 4 of the [Work Health and Safety Act 2011](#) (WHS Act), are reported in [Appendix 4](#).

Table 6: Employment arrangements, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Employment arrangement	SES	Non-SES	Total
ARC Enterprise Agreement	0	121	121
Individual flexibility arrangements	0	24	24
Australian workplace agreements	0	0	0
Common law contracts	5	0	5

Remuneration and benefits

The ARC offered a range of non-salary benefits to employees in the 2025–26 financial year, including influenza vaccinations, a healthy lifestyle allowance, access to salary packaging arrangements, and access to an employee assistance program. The ARC does not provide performance pay or performance-based bonuses.

The salary ranges for all ARC employees are outlined in **Table 7** by classification level as per the ARC Enterprise Agreement. Further breakdowns of SES remuneration are provided in **Tables 8** and **9**.

Table 7: Salary ranges by classification level (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

Classification level	Minimum salary (\$)	Maximum salary (\$)
SES 3	N/A	N/A
SES 2	290,652	356,845
SES 1	236,124	280,707
EL 2	148,139	166,982
EL 1	123,461	132,952
APS 6	99,734	111,701
APS 5	87,307	96,829
APS 4	80,365	86,246
APS 3	71,487	76,820
APS 2	64,009	69,537
APS 1	59,209	60,946
Other	N/A	N/A
Total (minimum/maximum)	59,209	356,845

SES remuneration

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

As at 30 June 2026, the notional salary range for SES Band 1 and Band 2 officers was between \$236,124 and \$356,845.

During 2025–26, the ARC had 9 key management personnel (**Table 8**), 8 senior executives (**Table 9**), and 7 other highly paid staff members identified under the definitions outlined in the Department of Finance's [*RMG-138: Commonwealth entities executive remuneration reporting guide for annual reports*](#).

Table 8: Remuneration for key management personnel (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

		Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
Name	Position title	Base salary (\$)	Bonuses (\$)	Other benefits and allowances (\$)	Superannuation contribution (\$)	Long service leave (\$)	Other long-term benefits (\$)	Termination benefits (\$)	Total remuneration (\$)
Professor Peter Shergold	ARC Board Chair	106,751	-	-	12,810	-	-	-	119,561
Professor Susan Dodds	ARC Board Deputy Chair	80,063	-	-	9,608	-	-	-	89,671
Professor Margaret Harding	ARC Board member	53,385	-	-	6,406	-	-	-	59,791
Professor Cindy Shannon	ARC Board member	53,385	-	-	6,406	-	-	-	59,791
Mr Mark Stickells ¹⁶	ARC Board member	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Professor Maggie Walter	ARC Board member	53,385	-	-	6,406	-	-	-	59,791
Professor Paul Wellings	ARC Board member	53,385	-	-	6,406	-	-	-	59,791
Ms Sally-Ann Williams	ARC Board member	53,385	-	-	6,406	-	-	-	59,791
Professor Ute Roessner	ARC CEO	500,816	-	5,374	63,739	11,667	-	-	581,596
Total	-	1,007,940	-	5,374	124,593	11,667	-	-	1,149,574

16 Mr Stickells' remuneration and employment is managed by CSIRO.

Table 9: Remuneration for senior executives (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

		Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
Total remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Average Base Salary (\$)	Average Bonuses (\$)	Average other benefits and allowances (\$)	Average Superannuation contribution (\$)	Average long service leave (\$)	Average other long-term benefits (\$)	Average termination benefits (\$)	Average total remuneration (\$)
\$0–\$220,000	4	128,969	-	1,153	27,063	-22,499	-	-	134,686
\$220,001–\$245,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$245,001–\$270,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$270,001–\$295,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$295,001–\$320,000	2	252,859		3,230	36,574	8,638	-	-	301,302
\$320,001–\$345,000	1	277,542		2,402	44,700	18,753	-	-	343,397
\$345,001–\$370,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$370,001–\$395,000	1	318,551		3,230	43,228	20,443	-	-	385,453
\$395,001–\$420,000	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
\$420,001–\$445,000	-		-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Note: This table does not include staff already recognised as key management personnel in Table 8. This table includes all substantive SES employed by the ARC during the period and those employees acting in SES positions for 3 months or longer.

Note: Long service leave has been determined on an accrual basis. The amount disclosed represents the movement in the estimated obligation attributable to the employee during the reporting period and may differ from the value of leave taken or paid during the year.

Table 10: Remuneration for other highly paid staff (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

		Short-term benefits			Post-employment benefits	Other long-term benefits		Termination benefits	Total remuneration
Total remuneration bands	Number of senior executives	Average Base Salary (\$)	Average Bonuses (\$)	Average other benefits and allowances (\$)	Average Superannuation contribution (\$)	Average long service leave (\$)	Average other long-term benefits (\$)	Average termination benefits (\$)	Average total remuneration (\$)
\$265,000–\$270,000	1	227,623	-	250	35,124	5,965	-	-	268,962
\$270,001–\$295,000	2	159,711	-	1,368	20,101	8,521	-	88,259	277,960
\$295,001–\$320,000	2	155,485	-	125	20,494	3,596	-	130,363	310,063
\$320,001–\$345,000	2	150,622	-	-	8,184	270	-	164,801	323,877

Note: Base salary includes salary paid and accrued, salary paid while on leave, annual leave accrued and temporary performance allowances.

Note: Other benefits and allowances include monetary benefits and non-monetary benefits such as provision of a car park.

Staff statistics

The ARC's staffing statistics, excluding the ARC Board Members and the CEO, as at 30 June 2026 for the current (2025–26) and previous (2024–25) reporting periods, are provided in **Tables 11 to 24**.

Table 11: Ongoing employees by location and gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Location	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
QLD	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
SA	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	2	0	2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	37	3	40	53	14	67	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	112
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	44	3	47	58	14	72	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	124

Table 12: Ongoing employees by location and gender, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2025)

Location	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Total	
NSW	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
QLD	0	1	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
SA	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
WA	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
ACT	42	4	46	60	8	68	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	115
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	48	5	53	64	8	72	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	126

Table 13: Non-ongoing employees by location and gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Location	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Table 14: Non-ongoing employees by location and gender, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2025)

Location	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
QLD	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TAS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VIC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
WA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACT	0	0	0	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	4
NT	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	5

Gender

Table 15: Ongoing employees by job classification level and gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Classification level	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
SES 1	2	0	2	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
EL 2	7	0	7	9	0	9	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	17
EL 1	17	1	18	31	4	35	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53
APS 6	9	1	10	8	7	15	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	28
APS 5	4	0	4	5	2	7	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	12
APS 4	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
APS 3	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
APS 2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	44	3	47	58	14	72	3	2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	124

Table 16: Ongoing employees by job classification level and gender, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2025)

Classification level	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	1	0	1	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
SES 1	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
EL 2	10	1	11	10	0	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
EL 1	17	1	18	30	1	31	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	49
APS 6	9	1	10	10	6	16	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	27
APS 5	5	0	5	7	2	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	14
APS 4	1	0	1	3	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4
APS 3	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
APS 2	1	1	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	48	4	52	64	9	73	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	126

Table 17: Non-ongoing employees by job classification level and gender, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Classification level	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
EL 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2

Table 18: Non-ongoing employees by job classification level and gender, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2025)

Classification level	Man			Woman			Non-binary			Uses a different term			Prefers not to say			Total
	Full-time	Part-time	Total	Full-time	Part-time	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	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
SES 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
EL 2	1	0	1	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
EL 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 6	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 3	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
APS 2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	1	0	1	3	0	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

Employment arrangements

Table 19: Employees by classification level and full-time or part-time status, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Classification level	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	5	0	5	0	0	0	5
EL 2	17	0	17	1	0	1	18
EL 1	48	5	53	0	0	0	53
APS 6	18	10	28	0	0	0	28
APS 5	10	2	12	0	0	0	12
APS 4	3	1	4	0	0	0	4
APS 3	2	0	2	1	0	1	3
APS 2	1	1	2	0	0	0	2
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	105	19	124	2	0	2	126

Table 20: Employees by classification level and full-time or part-time status, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2025)

Classification level	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	3	0	3	0	0	0	3
SES 1	4	0	4	1	0	1	5
EL 2	20	1	21	1	0	1	22
EL 1	46	3	49	0	0	0	49
APS 6	19	8	27	1	0	1	28
APS 5	12	2	14	1	0	1	15
APS 4	3	1	4	0	0	0	4
APS 3	2	0	2	1	0	1	3
APS 2	0	2	2	0	0	0	2
APS 1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	109	17	126	5	0	5	131

Location

Table 21: Employees by location and employment type, current reporting period
(as at 30 June 2026)

Location	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	3	0	3
QLD	4	1	5
SA	2	0	2
TAS	0	0	0
VIC	3	0	3
WA	0	0	0
ACT	112	1	113
NT	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0
Total	124	2	126

Table 22: Employees by location and employment type, previous reporting period
(as at 30 June 2025)

Location	Ongoing	Non-ongoing	Total
NSW	4	0	4
QLD	2	1	3
SA	2	0	2
TAS	0	0	0
VIC	2	0	2
WA	1	0	1
ACT	115	4	119
NT	0	0	0
External territories	0	0	0
Overseas	0	0	0
Total	126	5	131

Indigenous Australian employment

Table 23: Number of Indigenous Australian employees by employment type, current reporting period (as at 30 June 2026)

Employment type	Total
Ongoing	2
Non-ongoing	0
Total	2

Table 24: Number of Indigenous Australian employees by employment type, previous reporting period (as at 30 June 2025)

Employment type	Total
Ongoing	2
Non-ongoing	0
Total	2

PART 04

Financial performance and reporting

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4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets

Contracts

Expenditure on consultancy contracts

During 2025–26, the ARC entered 162 new consultancy contracts involving total actual expenditure of \$1.602 million (inclusive of GST). In addition, 677 ongoing consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$2.454 million (inclusive of GST). A summary of the ARC's engagements with consultants for 2025–26 is provided in Tables 25 and 26.

Table 25: Number and expenditure of consultancy contracts (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

	Number ¹⁷	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.) ¹⁸
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	162	1.602 million
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period ¹⁹	677	2.454 million
Total	839	4.056 million

Table 26: Expenditure on consultancy contracts by organisation (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

Name of organisation ²⁰	Australian Business Number	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.)
McGrathNicol Advisory Partnership	34 824 776 937	1.128 million
Scyne Advisory Pty Limited	20 607 773 295	475,542
A23 Pty Ltd	81 612 329 781	208,230
University of Queensland	63 942 912 684	139,603
Monash University	12 377 614 012	124,849

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

¹⁷ As per all consultancy contracts that have been entered into, not just those that were reportable on AusTender.

¹⁸ Expenditure on consultancy contracts represents the actual cash expenditure during the period for the contracts details but does not include any accrued expenses.

¹⁹ The number of ongoing contracts is all active consultancy contracts as at 30 June 2026 that were entered into prior to the 2025–26 reporting period.

²⁰ The expenditure in this table is the top 5 consultancy expenditures during 2025–26 by organisation. This may cover multiple contracts and contracts that were no longer active as at 30 June 2026.

Policy on selection and engagement for consultancy contracts

The ARC’s policy on selecting and engaging consultants is set out in the internal ARC Accountable Authority Instructions and in related procurement instructions and guidance material.

The ARC engages consultants in accordance with the PGPA Act, including the [Commonwealth Procurement Rules](#) 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. Most 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 2025–26, the ARC entered 83 new non-consultancy contracts involving total actual expenditure of \$7.557 million (inclusive of GST). In addition, 160 ongoing non-consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$11.424 million (inclusive of GST). A summary of the ARC’s engagements with non-consultants for 2025–26 is provided in **Tables 27** and **28**.

Table 27: Number and expenditure of non-consultancy contracts (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

	Number ²¹	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.) ²²
New contracts entered into during the reporting period	83	7.557 million
Ongoing contracts entered into during a previous reporting period ²³	160	11.424 million
Total	243	18.981 million

21 As per all non-consultancy contracts that have been entered into not just those that were reportable on AusTender.
22 Expenditure on non-consultancy contracts represents the actual cash expenditure during the period for the contracts detailed but does not include any accrued expenses.
23 The number of ongoing contracts is all active non-consultancy contracts as at 30 June 2026 that were entered into prior to the 2025–26 period.

Table 28: Expenditure on non-consultancy contracts by organisation (during the 2025–26 reporting period)

Name of organisation ²⁴	Australian Business Number	Expenditure \$ (GST inc.)
Jones Lang LaSalle – ARC	69 008 585 260	2,886,145
Hudson Global Resources (Aust) Pty Ltd	21 002 888 762	2,155,351
Face 2 Face Recruitment	47 112 122 504	1,283,016
Calleo Resourcing Pty Ltd	29 606 001 763	931,724
HiTech Australia Pty Ltd	41 062 067 878	794,470

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 access clauses

The ARC is required to provide details of any contract entered into 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.

During 2025–26, 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 accountable authority did not exempt any contracts from publication on the AusTender website during the reporting period.

Procurement initiatives to support Australian businesses and small business

The ARC supports Australian businesses and small business participation, including Indigenous businesses 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, www.finance.gov.au.

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, www.treasury.gov.au.

²⁴ The expenditure in this table is the top 5 non-consultancy expenditures during 2025–26 by organisation. This may cover multiple contracts and contracts that are no longer active as at 30 June 2026.

The ARC employs a number of procurement practices to support Australian businesses, SMEs and Indigenous businesses, including:

- using standard contract templates with clear and simple language
- using electronic payment systems to facilitate on-time payment
- encouraging credit card use to expedite payments
- using 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 Australian Government's [Indigenous Procurement Policy](#) on the number of contracts, contract values and expenditure for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander SMEs.

Purchasing

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 Accountable Authority 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 its [Annual Procurement Plan](#), which is available on the AusTender website. 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.

Assets management

The ARC does not have any significant asset holdings however, the ARC's assets include office fit-out, furniture, ICT software and 'portable and attractive' equipment such as laptops and mobile phones. The ARC also owns server and network infrastructure located at an appropriately secured commercial data centre located in the ACT.

The ARC reviews its asset holdings annually to ensure cost effectiveness and whole-of-life use. The ARC undertook a comprehensive revaluation of its assets value as at the end of the 2025–26 financial year.

4.2 Financial performance

Summary

This section provides an overview of the ARC's financial performance during 2025–26 for departmental and administered activities. It should be read in conjunction with the information on financial statements provided in [Section 4.3](#), which includes:

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

The ARC's initial total budgeted resource for 2025–26, as per the *ARC Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26* (PBS) was \$1,054.9 million. This comprised:

- \$1,031.3 million for the administered annual appropriations (\$1,023.8 million for the NCGP and \$7.5 million for suppliers)
- \$23.6 million for the departmental expenses (\$23.3 million from departmental appropriation and \$0.3 million from external revenue).

The ARC resource statement is presented in **Table 29**, followed by the ARC expenses for Outcome 1, which is presented in **Table 30**.

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 during the reporting period.

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.

The ARC recorded a net cash operating deficit of \$1.6 million in 2025–26. The result was primarily driven by separation payments, unexpected superannuation contribution payments, and relocation expenses. Notwithstanding this outcome, the ARC remains in a sound financial position and has sufficient resources to meet its operational requirements. The financial statements and accompanying commentary provide further information on the factors contributing to the result and the ARC's overall financial position. Own-source revenue increased from \$0.7 million in 2024–25 to \$1.3 million in 2025–26 due to the commencement of new contracts.

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. For 2025–26, there was \$1,039.5 million in administered expenses.

Resource statements

Table 29 shows the total resourcing from all sources available to the ARC for its operations and to deliver programs and services on behalf of the government. The table also summarises how resources were applied by administered (on behalf of the government or the public) and departmental (for ARC’s operations) classification.

Table 30 shows how much the ARC budgeted and spent (on an accrual basis) on achieving Outcome 1, broken down by program, as well as by administered and departmental funding sources.

Table 29: Resource appropriations by administered and departmental classification (for the 2025–26 reporting period)

		Current available appropriation (\$'000)	Payments made (\$'000)	Balance remaining (\$'000)
	Notes	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Departmental				
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services ²⁵	-	26,100	20,522	5,578
Prior year appropriations available – ordinary annual services ²⁶	-	8,312	8,312	0
Total departmental annual appropriations	-	34,412	28,834	5,578
Total departmental resourcing	A	34,412	28,834	5,578
Administered				
Annual appropriations – ordinary annual services ²⁷	-	1,040,015	1,024,103	15,912
Prior year appropriations available – ordinary annual services ²⁸	-	10,137	10,137	0
Total administered annual appropriations	B	1,050,152	1,034,240	15,912
Special accounts				
Opening balance	-	2,070	0	2070
Payments made	-	0	0	0
Total special account	D	2070	0	2070
Total administered resourcing	B+C+D	1,052,222	1,034,240	17,982
Total resourcing and payments for the ARC	A+B+C+D	1,086,634	1,063,074	23,560

25 Departmental Appropriation Act (No.1 and No.3) 2025–26. This also includes cash held in bank and external 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'.

26 Departmental Appropriation Act (No.1 and No.3) 2024–25.

27 Administered Appropriation Act (No.1 and No.3) 2025–26.

28 Administered Appropriation Act (No.1 and No.3) 2024–25.

Table 30: Budget and expenditure towards Outcome 1 by program (for the 2025–26 reporting period)

Outcome 1: Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice	Budget ²⁹ (2025–26) (\$'000)	Actual expenses (2025–26) (\$'000)	Variation (2025–26) (\$'000)
	(a)	(b)	(a) – (b)
Program 1.1: Discovery – Research and Research Training			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1 and 3)	629,808	633,355	-3,547
Total for Program 1.1	629,808	633,355	-3,547
Program 1.2: Linkage – Cross-sector research partnerships			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1 and 3)	406,406	401,705	4,701
Special accounts	0	0	0
Total for Program 1.2	406,406	401,705	4,701
Program 1.3: Excellence in Research for Australia			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1 and 3)	3,801	4,411	-610
Total for Program 1.3	3,801	4,411	-610
Outcome 1: Totals by appropriation type			
Administered expenses			
Ordinary annual services (Appropriation Act No.1)	1,040,015	1,039,471	544
Special accounts	0	0	0
Departmental expenses			
Departmental appropriation	22,106	24,514	-2,408
s74 External Revenue ³⁰	255	1,443	-1188
Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year ³¹	3,834	4,792	-958
Total expenses for Outcome 1	26,195	30,749	-4,554
	Budget (2025–26)	Actual (2025–26)	Variation (2025–26)
Average staffing level (number)	140	123	17

29 Full-year budget, including any subsequent adjustments made to the 2025–26 budget.

30 Estimated expenses incurred in relation to retained revenue receipts under section 74 of the PGPA Act.

31 Expenses not requiring appropriation in the budget year are made up of depreciation expenses, amortisation expenses, make good expenses, write-down and impairment of assets and audit fees.

4.3 Financial Statements



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Minister for Education

Opinion

In my opinion, the financial statements of the Australian Research Council (the Entity) for the year ended 30 June 2026:

- (a) comply with Australian Accounting Standards – Simplified Disclosures 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 2026 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 2026 and for the year then ended:

- Statement by the Accountable Authority, Chief Executive Officer 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 material accounting policy information 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 their 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 Board 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 – Simplified Disclosures and the rules made under the Act. The Board is also responsible for such internal control as the Board determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

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In preparing the financial statements, the Board 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 of an administrative restructure or for any other reason. The Board 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



Saminda Maddumahewa
Audit Principal

Delegate of the Auditor-General
Canberra
17 September 2026

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STATEMENT BY THE ACCOUNTABLE AUTHORITY AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

In our opinion, the attached financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2026 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 these amounts fall due.



Professor Peter Shergold AC
Chair of the Board



Professor Ute Roessner
Chief Executive Officer



Iryna Rakova FCPA
Chief Financial Officer

Australian Research Council
Statement of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	1.1A	22,183	19,543	20,073
Suppliers	1.1B	3,427	3,454	2,092
Depreciation and amortisation	3.2A	4,648	5,250	3,770
Finance costs	1.1C	230	58	260
Write-down and impairment of other assets	1.1D	261	9	-
Total expenses		30,749	28,314	26,195
Own-source income				
Own-source revenue				
Revenue from contracts with customers	1.2A	1,325	771	255
Other revenue	1.2B	70	70	64
Total own-source revenue		1,395	841	319
Gains				
Gains from sale of assets		-	15	-
Reversal of write-downs and impairment		-	2	-
Other gains	1.2C	325	-	-
Total gains		325	17	-
Total own-source income		1,720	858	319
Net cost of services		(29,029)	(27,456)	(25,876)
Revenue from Government	1.2D	24,009	22,976	23,273
Deficit on continuing operations		(5,020)	(4,480)	(2,603)

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

For variance explanations, please refer to the Budget Variance commentary following the primary financial statements.

Australian Research Council
Statement of Financial Position
as at 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	414	295	250
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	5,186	8,206	9,485
Total financial assets		5,600	8,501	9,735
Non-financial assets*				
Buildings	3.2A	7,039	653	6,287
Plant and equipment	3.2A	998	1,133	821
Computer software	3.2A	2,341	4,877	5,876
Prepayments		542	659	705
Total non-financial assets		10,920	7,322	13,689
Total assets		16,520	15,823	23,424
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers	3.3A	117	198	359
Other payables	3.3B	698	772	947
Total payables		815	970	1,306
Interest bearing liabilities				
Leases	3.4A	7,075	569	6,463
Total interest bearing liabilities		7,075	569	6,463
Provisions				
Employee provisions	6.1A	5,262	5,193	5,455
Other provisions	3.5A	-	1,036	801
Total provisions		5,262	6,229	6,256
Total liabilities		13,152	7,768	14,025
Net assets		3,368	8,055	9,399
EQUITY				
Contributed equity		45,378	45,045	46,378
Reserves		-	29	29
Accumulated deficit		(42,010)	(37,019)	(37,008)
Total equity		3,368	8,055	9,399

Australian Research Council
Statement of Changes in Equity
for the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
CONTRIBUTED EQUITY				
Opening balance as at 1 July				
Balance carried forward from previous period		45,045	43,728	45,045
Transactions with owners				
Contributions by owners				
Departmental capital budget		333	1,317	1,333
Total transactions with owners		333	1,317	1,333
Closing balance as at 30 June		45,378	45,045	46,378
RETAINED EARNINGS				
Opening balance				
Balance carried forward from previous period		(37,019)	(32,539)	(34,405)
Comprehensive income				
Deficit for the period		(5,020)	(4,480)	(2,603)
Total comprehensive income		(5,020)	(4,480)	(2,603)
Transfers between equity components		29	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June		(42,010)	(37,019)	(37,008)
ASSET REVALUATION RESERVE				
Opening balance				
Balance carried forward from previous period		29	29	29
Asset Revaluation				
Transfers between equity components		(29)	-	-
Closing balance as at 30 June		-	29	29
TOTAL EQUITY				
Opening balance				
Balance carried forward from previous period		8,055	11,218	10,669
Adjusted opening balance		8,055	11,218	10,669
Comprehensive income				
Deficit for the period		(5,020)	(4,480)	(2,603)
Change in the measurement of provision to make good		-	-	-
Change in asset value on revaluation		-	-	-
Total comprehensive income		(5,020)	(4,480)	(2,603)
Transactions with owners				
Contributions by owners				
Departmental capital budget		333	1,317	1,333
Total transactions with owners		333	1,317	1,333
Closing balance as at 30 June		3,368	8,055	9,399

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 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Appropriations		28,278	25,688	23,198
Sale of goods and rendering of services		1,235	861	255
GST received		523	663	452
Other		-	5	-
Total cash received		30,036	27,217	23,905
Cash used				
Employees		22,098	19,758	19,998
Suppliers		4,170	3,224	2,028
Interest payments on lease liabilities		230	58	260
GST paid		487	636	452
Section 74 receipts transferred to OPA		1,758	1,062	-
Total cash used		28,743	24,738	22,738
Net cash from operating activities		1,293	2,479	1,167
INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Cash used				
Purchase of property, plant and equipment		675	747	1,333
Total cash used		675	747	1,333
Net cash used by investing activities		(675)	(747)	(1,333)
FINANCING ACTIVITIES				
Cash received				
Contributed equity		675	747	1,333
Total cash received		675	747	1,333
Cash used				
Principal payments of lease liabilities		1,174	2,434	1,167
Total cash used		1,174	2,434	1,167
Net cash used by financing activities		(499)	(1,687)	166
Net increase in cash held		119	45	-
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		295	250	250
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	3.1A	414	295	250

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

Australian Research Council
Administered Schedule of Comprehensive Income
for the period ended 30 June 2026

		2026	2025	Original Budget
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000	\$'000
NET COST OF SERVICES				
Expenses				
Employee benefits	2.1A	483	604	447
Suppliers	2.1B	16,325	13,759	6,949
Grants	2.1C	1,022,663	926,812	1,032,619
Total expenses		1,039,471	941,175	1,040,015
Income				
Revenue				
Non-taxation revenue				
Other revenue	2.2A	12,083	10,924	9,721
Total non-taxation revenue		12,083	10,924	9,721
Total revenue		12,083	10,924	9,721
Total income		12,083	10,924	9,721
Net cost of services		(1,027,388)	(930,251)	(1,030,294)
Deficit		(1,027,388)	(930,251)	(1,030,294)
Total comprehensive loss		(1,027,388)	(930,251)	(1,030,294)

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

For variance explanations, please refer to the Budget Variance commentary following the primary financial statements.

Australian Research Council
Administered Schedule of Assets and Liabilities
as at 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000	Original Budget \$'000
ASSETS				
Financial assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1A	2,070	2,070	2,115
Trade and other receivables	4.1B	42,584	312	223
Total financial assets		44,654	2,382	2,338
Non-financial assets				
Prepayments		64	86	27
Total non-financial assets		64	86	27
Total assets administered on behalf of Government		44,718	2,468	2,365
LIABILITIES				
Payables				
Suppliers		307	-	-
Grants	4.2A	208,449	164,011	247,756
Other payables	4.2B	1,205	970	617
Total payables		209,961	164,981	248,373
Provisions				
Administered - employee provisions	6.1B	33	23	115
Total provisions		33	23	115
Total liabilities administered on behalf of Government		209,994	165,004	248,488
Net liabilities		(165,276)	(162,536)	(246,123)

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

For variance explanations, please refer to the Budget Variance commentary following the primary financial statements.

Australian Research Council

Administered Reconciliation Schedule

for the period ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Opening assets less liabilities as at 1 July		(162,536)	(246,123)
Net (cost of)/contribution by services			
Income		12,083	10,924
Expenses		(1,039,471)	(941,175)
Transfers (to)/from the Australian Government			
Appropriation transfers from Official Public Account (OPA)			
Annual appropriations	5.1A	1,034,240	1,025,264
Administered GST Appropriations		1,890	1,719
Appropriation transfers to OPA			
Appropriations		(9,488)	(11,513)
Return of GST Appropriations		(1,994)	(1,632)
Closing assets less liabilities as at 30 June		(165,276)	(162,536)

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

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 2026

		2026	2025
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
OPERATING ACTIVITIES			
Cash received			
GST received		1,994	1,632
Other ¹		9,488	11,513
Total cash received		11,482	13,145
Cash used			
Employees		473	697
Suppliers		16,265	13,425
Grants		1,017,502	1,011,187
GST paid		1,890	1,719
Total cash used		1,036,130	1,027,028
Net cash used by operating activities		(1,024,648)	(1,013,883)
Cash from Official Public Account			
Appropriations		1,034,240	1,025,264
Administered GST Appropriation		1,890	1,719
Total cash from official public account		1,036,130	1,026,983
Cash to Official Public Account			
Appropriations		9,488	11,513
Return of GST Appropriation to OPA		1,994	1,632
Total cash to official public account		11,482	13,145
Net increase in cash held		-	(45)
Cash and cash equivalents at the beginning of the reporting period		2,070	2,115
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the reporting period	4.1A	2,070	2,070

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

1. Other cash received includes recoveries and recoupments of grants following grantee relinquishments.

Budget Variances

The following commentary provides a high-level commentary of major variances between the original budget as published in Education, Skills and Employment 2025-26 Portfolio Budget Statements (PBS) to the 2025-26 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 5% of the line item and \$0.5 million; 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 Original Budget		Affected line items
	\$'000	%	
Departmental			
1.1A. Employee benefits - Employee benefits exceeded budget due to higher-than-anticipated employee-related expenditure, including several one-off costs. Underlying employee benefit expenses were broadly consistent with budget.	2,110	11%	Expenses – Employee benefits Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Employees
1.1B. Suppliers - Suppliers expenses exceeded budget primarily due to higher than anticipated make good costs and increased information technology expenditure associated with the ARC's operational requirements.	1,335	64%	Expenses – Suppliers Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Suppliers
3.2A. Depreciation and amortisation - Depreciation and amortisation exceeded budget primarily due to higher than anticipated depreciation associated with the ARC's new office accommodation lease, which had not been finalised when the budget was prepared. Depreciation and amortisation was also impacted by the disposal of SEER, an internally developed software asset.	878	23%	Expenses - Depreciation and Amortisation Consequential Impacts Assets - Buildings (RoU) Assets - Computer Software
1.2A. Revenue from contracts with customers - Revenue from customers exceeded budget primarily due to revenue received for work undertaken on the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) and the renewal of Memoranda of Understanding for Research Grants Services.	1,070	420%	Revenue - Revenue from contracts with customers Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Sale of goods and rendering of services
3.1B. Trade and other receivables - The decrease was primarily due to operating cash outflows during the year, including payment of make good obligations (\$1.3 million) and settlement of separation-related provisions (approximately \$1.3 million). The ARC also recorded a net cash deficit of \$1.6 million during the year (refer Notes 5.1 and 5.3).	-4,299	-45%	Assets – Trade and other receivables Consequential Impacts Liabilities - Employee provisions Liabilities - Leases Cashflow - Appropriations Cashflow - Employees Cashflow - Suppliers
3.2A. Buildings - Buildings exceeded budget primarily due to the recognition of right-of-use assets associated with the ARC's new office accommodation lease, the value of which was not finalised at the time the original budget was prepared.	752	12%	Assets – Buildings (RoU) Consequential Impacts Expenses - Depreciation and Amortisation
3.2A. Computer software - Computer software was lower than budget primarily due to lower than anticipated investment in internally developed software and the disposal of SEER during 2025-26.	-3,535	-60%	Assets – Computer Software Consequential Impacts Assets – Trade and other receivables Cashflow - Contributed equity Cashflow - Purchase of computer software

3.4A. Leases - Leases exceeded budget primarily due to the recognition of lease liabilities associated with the ARC's new office accommodation lease, the value of which was not finalised at the time the original budget was prepared.	612	9%	Liabilities - Interest bearing liabilities - Leases Consequential Impacts Assets - Buildings (RoU) Expenses - Depreciation and Amortisation Cashflow - Principal payments of lease liabilities
3.5A. Other provisions - Other provisions were lower than budget as the ARC's new office accommodation lease did not require recognition of a make good provision. This was not known when the original budget was prepared.	-801	-100%	Liabilities - Other provisions Consequential Impacts Expenses - Suppliers
5.1A. Departmental capital budget - A reclassification of \$1.0 million from the Departmental Capital Budget (DCB) to the operating budget has been approved by the Department of Finance and is incorporated into the Education Portfolio Supplementary Additional Estimates Statements for the ARC in Appropriation Bill No. 5. The savings in DCB were generated as a result of increased Software-as-a-Service arrangements (rather than software purchases).	-1,000	-76%	Contributed Equity

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

Explanation of major variances	Variance to Original Budget		Affected line items
	\$'000	%	
Administered			
2.1B. Suppliers - Supplier expenses exceeded budget primarily due to the scope of work associated with delivering the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). This includes preparing to implement the NCGP Review, which required additional supplier support and services.	9,376	135%	Expenses - Suppliers Cashflow - Suppliers
2.2A. Other Revenue -This balance comprises revenue from the return of unspent grant funding by prior year grant recipients, as required by the ARC Act. Actual returns of grant funding were higher than Budget, due to the inherently variable nature of this revenue stream, which is dependent on the actual grant usage and timing of grant acquittals by grant recipients.	2,362	24%	Revenue - Other Revenue Consequential Impacts Cashflow - Cash received other Cashflow - Cash to OPA
4.1 B. Trade and other receivables - Trade and other receivables exceeded budget primarily due to the recognition of a receivable from Adelaide University relating to ARC grant funding transferred as part of the Adelaide University merger. Under normal processes, these amounts would have been recovered through offset against future grant payments; however, this was not possible as the Foundation Universities (University of Adelaide and University of South Australia) no longer receive ARC funding. The ARC is expecting to receive money from Adelaide University in August 2026.	42,361	18996%	Assets - Receivables Liabilities - Grants
4.2A. Grant Liabilities - Grant liabilities were lower than budget primarily due to the Adelaide University merger. Refer to Note 4.1B Trade and Other receivables , where a corresponding receivable was recognised in respect of transferred grant funding that could not be recovered through the ARC's standard offset process.	-39,307	-16%	Assets - Receivables Liabilities - Grants

Note negative numbers indicate that the actual amount reported 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 is responsible for administering the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP), assessing the quality, engagement and impact of research and providing advice and support on research matters.

The ARC is structured to meet the following outcome:

Outcome 1: Growth of knowledge and innovation through managing research funding schemes, measuring research excellence and providing advice.

ARC activities contributing toward this Outcome are classified as either departmental or administered. Departmental activities involve the use of assets, liabilities, income and expenses controlled or incurred by the entity in its own right. Administered activities involve the management or oversight by the entity, on behalf of the Government, of items controlled or incurred by the Government.

The ARC conducts the following administered activities on behalf of the Government:

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 ARC is responsible for administering the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP); evaluating the excellence, impact and depth of university research; supporting research integrity and promoting ethical research; promoting academic careers; providing advice and support on research matters; and partnering with other Commonwealth entities to deliver research grants.

Through the NCGP, the ARC supports excellent research and research training across all disciplines (excluding medical research) for the benefit of all Australians, by awarding funding based on a competitive peer review process. NCGP schemes support the highest-quality research and infrastructure, and encourage research collaboration with local, national and international partners to advance the adoption and translation of new knowledge to increase its impact.

The ARC operates under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*. The ARC is governed by an independent Board established under the Act, which exercises the functions and powers conferred on it by the Act.

The continued existence of the ARC in its present form and with its present programs is dependent on Government policy and on continuing funding by Parliament for the ARC's administration and programs.

The Basis of Preparation

The financial statements are required by section 42 of the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013*.

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 – including simplified disclosures for Tier 2 Entities under AASB 1060 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

No accounting standard has been adopted earlier than the application date as stated in the standard. All new standards issued prior to the sign-off date and applicable to the current reporting period did not have a material effect on the ARC's financial statements.

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 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

Departmental

No ARC 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 ARC 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 the Australian Research Council for the year ended 2026.

1.1 Expenses

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
1.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	14,898	14,759
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans ¹	2,013	1,669
Defined benefit plans ²	1,628	976
Leave and other entitlements	1,789	1,851
Separation and redundancies	1,495	-
Other employee entitlements	360	288
Total employee benefits	22,183	19,543

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 is contained in the People and Relationships section.

1.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Audit services (received free of charge from ANAO)	64	64
Consultants	450	722
Employee related ³	353	328
Travel	187	221
IT services ⁴	1,509	1,198
Property related	464	488
Other ⁵	264	247
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	3,291	3,268

Goods supplied	176	151
Services rendered	3,115	3,117
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	3,291	3,268

Other suppliers

Workers compensation expenses	76	83
Variable lease payments	60	103
Total other suppliers	136	186
Total suppliers	3,427	3,454

3. Employee related expenses include staff training, staff study assistance costs and recruitment charges.

4. IT services costs are higher compared to previous year mainly due to increased software license costs, offsite storage and purchase of minor computer hardware.

5. Other includes business catering, media monitors, subscriptions, graphic design, printing, photocopier, telephone costs, minor equipment, office consumables, legal services, storage and hire of equipment.

1.1C: Finance costs

Interest on lease liabilities	230	58
Total finance costs	230	58

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

Write-down	261	9
Total write-down and impairment of other assets	261	9

1.2 Own-Source Revenue and Gains

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000

Own-Source Revenue

1.2A: Revenue from contracts with customers

Rendering of services (related parties)	1,325	771
Total revenue from contracts with customers	1,325	771

Disaggregation of revenue from contracts with customers

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

Timing of transfer of goods and services:

Over time	1,325	771
	1,325	771

Accounting Policy

The ARC has entered into collaborative agreements with three Australian Government entities. They have been assessed as enforceable for the purposes of AASB 15.

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. 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.

1.2B: Other revenue

Resources received free of charge

Remuneration of auditors (ANAO)	64	64
Other	6	6

Total other revenue	70	70
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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. The use of those resources are recognised as an expense. Resources received free of charge are recorded as either revenue or gains depending on their nature.

1.2C: Other gains

Gain on remeasurement of provision for minimum lease payments	163	-
Resources received free of charge		
Furniture (IP Australia)	162	-
Total other gains	325	-

Accounting Policy

Resources Received Free of Charge

Contributions of assets at no cost of acquisition or for nominal consideration are recognised as gains at their fair value when the asset qualifies for recognition, unless received from another Government entity as a consequence of a restructuring of administrative arrangements

1.2D: Revenue from Government

Appropriations		
Departmental appropriations	24,009	22,976
Total revenue from Government	24,009	22,976

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 that 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

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
2.1A: Employee benefits		
Wages and salaries	404	361
Superannuation		
Defined contribution plans	35	39
Defined benefit plans	34	23
Leave and other entitlements	10	31
Separations and redundancies	-	144
Other employee entitlements	-	6
Total employee benefits¹	483	604

Accounting Policy

Accounting policies for employee related expenses is contained in the People and Relationships section.

¹During 2025-26 two employees (2024-25: two) were engaged to undertake work exclusively related to the administration of the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) and to support the NCGP Review. One employee's engagement concluded in March 2026, while the other engagement is scheduled to conclude in November 2026.

2.1B: Suppliers

Goods and services supplied or rendered

Consultants	4,138	1,747
Contractors	11,532	10,478
Legal	186	660
Travel	174	260
Other	295	614
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	16,325	13,759
Goods supplied	11	45
Services rendered	16,314	13,714
Total goods and services supplied or rendered	16,325	13,759
Total suppliers	16,325	13,759

2.1C: Grants

Public sector		
Commonwealth educational institutions (related parties)	62,730	58,408
State and Territory Governments	959,606	868,001
Private sector		
Other research organisations	327	403
Total grants	1,022,663	926,812

Accounting Policy

The ARC administers the National Competitive Grants Program on behalf of the Australian Government. Grant and subsidy 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 Government enters into an agreement to make these grants and services but services have not been performed or criteria satisfied, this is considered a commitment.

2.2 Administered - Income

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Revenue		
Non-Taxation Revenue		
2.2A: Other revenue		
Recovery of prior year unspent grant payments	12,083	10,924
Total other revenue	12,083	10,924

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

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
3.1A: Cash and cash equivalents		
Cash on hand or on deposit	414	295
Total cash and cash equivalents	414	295

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	-	132
Total goods and services receivables	-	132

Appropriation receivables

Appropriation receivable	5,165	8,017
Total appropriation receivables	5,165	8,017

Other receivables

GST receivable from the Australian Taxation Office	21	57
Total other receivables	21	57

Total trade and other receivables (gross)	5,186	8,206
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Total trade and other receivables (net)	5,186	8,206
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Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Credit terms for goods and services were within 20 days (2025: 20 days).

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

Trade receivables, loans and other receivables that are held for the purpose of collecting the contractual cash flows where the cash flows are solely payments of principal and interest, that are not provided at below-market interest rates, are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method adjusted for any loss allowance.

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

	Buildings \$'000	Plant and equipment \$'000	Computer Software ¹ \$'000	Total \$'000
As at 1 July 2025				
Gross book value	13,951	2,612	25,079	41,642
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(13,298)	(1,479)	(20,202)	(34,979)
Total as at 1 July 2025	653	1,133	4,877	6,663
Additions				
Purchased or Internally developed	8,138	321	-	8,459
Resources received free of charge ²	-	162	-	162
Depreciation and amortisation	(77)	(419)	(2,475)	(2,971)
Depreciation on right-of-use assets	(1,675)	(2)	-	(1,677)
Other movements	-	-	-	-
Disposals				
Gross book value	(13,951)	(1,307)	(5,864)	(21,122)
Accumulated depreciation	13,951	1,110	-	15,061
Accumulated amortisation	-	-	5,803	5,803
Total as at 30 June 2026	7,039	998	2,341	10,378
Total as at 30 June 2026 represented by				
Gross book value	8,138	1,788	19,215	29,141
Accumulated depreciation, amortisation and impairment	(1,099)	(790)	(16,874)	(18,763)
Total as at 30 June 2026	7,039	998	2,341	10,378
Carrying amount of right-of-use assets	6,707	-	-	6,707

1. The carrying amount of computer software included \$27,023 purchased software and \$2,314,118 internally developed software.

2. Upon commencement of the new lease at Discovery House, the ARC received furniture free of charge from IP Australia. Further information regarding the lease is provided in Note 3.4A.

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

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

There are no contractual commitments for acquisition of property, plant, equipment and intangible assets. The GST inclusive amount is NIL (2024-25: NIL). The GST exclusive amount is NIL (2024-25: NIL).

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. During the 2025–26 financial year, ARC relocated to new office premises. Under the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed with IP Australia for sublease, ARC is not required to make good the premises upon vacating and hence no provision for make good has been made.

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, plus 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.

An annual impairment review is undertaken for any right of use lease asset that shows indicators of impairment and an impairment loss is recognised against any right of use lease asset that is impaired. ROU assets continue to be measured at cost after initial recognition in Commonwealth agency, General Government Sector (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 value 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 reverse 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.

An independent professional valuer performed a valuation (as at 30 June 2026) of the ARC's non-financial assets (excluding intangible assets). The valuation concluded that the fair values of assets across all classes are not materially different from their carrying values.

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. Depreciation rates applying to each class of depreciable assets are based on the following lives:

	2026	2025
Buildings	Lease term	Lease term
Plant & Equipment	2 to 10 years	2 to 10 years

The depreciation rates for ROU assets are based on the lease commencement date to the earlier of the end of the useful life of the ROU asset or the end of the lease term.

Accounting Policy (continued)**Impairment**

All assets were assessed for impairment at 30 June 2026 by suitably qualified ARC Officers.

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.

Intangibles

The entity's intangibles comprise computer software for internal use. These assets are carried at cost less accumulated amortisation and accumulated impairment losses. The threshold

for capitalisation of internally developed intangibles is \$50,000.

Software is amortised on a straight-line basis over its anticipated useful life. The useful lives of the entity's software are 1 to 11 years (2025: 1 to 11 years).

All software assets were assessed for indications of impairment as at 30 June 2026 by suitably qualified ARC Officers.

3.3 Payables

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000

3.3A: Suppliers

Trade creditors and accruals	117	198
Total suppliers	117	198

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Settlement is usually made within 20 days (2025: 20 days), except e-invoicing where the terms of trade are 5 days (2025: 5 days).

3.3B: Other payables

Salaries and wages	559	500
Superannuation	90	83
Unearned income	-	90
Other	49	99
Total other payables	698	772

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

3.4 Interest Bearing Liabilities

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
3.4A: Leases		
Lease liabilities	7,075	569
Total leases	7,075	569
Maturity analysis - contractual undiscounted cash flows		
Within 1 year	1,161	569
Between 1 to 5 years	5,032	-
More than 5 years	1,596	-
Total leases	7,789	569

Total cash outflow for principal lease payments for the end of June 2026 was \$1,174,300 (2025: \$2,433,784).

From 2025-26, the ARC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with IP Australia to sub lease Level 4 of West Wing Discovery House located at 47 Bowes Street, Woden, ACT, 2606. The MoU is for 7.25 years and annual rent is \$1,121,015 (with an annual increment rate of 3.25%).

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

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 ARC'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 makegood	
	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
As at 1 July 2025	1,036	801
Change in discount rate and estimated costs to restore leased premises		235
Provision used	(1,036)	-
Total as at 30 June 2026	-	1,036

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

The ARC currently has one (2024-25: one) agreement for the leasing of premises and there is **no requirement** to restore the premises to their original condition at the conclusion of the lease. The previous lease at Canberra Airport expired in September 2025, requiring the provision to be fully utilised.

Assets and Liabilities Administered on Behalf of the Government

This section analyses assets used to conduct operations and the operating liabilities incurred for activities that 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.

4.1 Administered - Financial Assets

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000

4.1A: Cash and cash equivalents

Cash in special accounts	2,070	2,070
Total cash and cash equivalents	2,070	2,070

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	200	312
Receivables from Universities ¹	42,384	-
Total trade and other receivables	42,584	312

Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1.

Credit terms for trade and other receivables were within 20 days (2025: 20 days).

All receivables are current assets and not overdue.

¹In June 2026, an invoice for \$42.38 million was raised to the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia in relation to ARC grant funding transferred as part of the Adelaide University merger. The amount was received in August 2026.

4.2 Administered - Payables		
	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
4.2A: Grants		
State and Territory Governments	193,243	152,335
Commonwealth educational institutions (related parties)	15,132	11,595
Other	74	81
Total grants	208,449	164,011
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 <i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i>.		
Accounting Judgements and Estimates <u>Grants</u> 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 the entire remaining grants or enforce recovery until the recipient acquits the funds.		
4.2B: Other payables		
Other ¹	1,205	970
Total other payables	1,205	970
Current and non-current allocation disclosed in Note 8.1. 1. Other payables mainly include accruals for contractors.		

Funding

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

5.1 Appropriations

5.1A: Annual appropriations

Annual Appropriations for 2026

	Annual appropriation ¹ \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation ² \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2026 (current and prior years) \$'000	Variance \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	24,009	1,758	25,767	28,159	(2,392)
Capital Budget ³	333	-	333	675	(342)
Total departmental	24,342	1,758	26,100	28,834	(2,734)
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	1,040,015	-	1,040,015	1,034,240	5,775
Total administered	1,040,015	-	1,040,015	1,034,240	5,775

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

2. \$1.758 million are retained revenue receipts under Section 74 of the PGPA Act. This includes revenue from contracts with customers and GST refunds from Australian Taxation Office.

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

Annual Appropriations for 2025

	Annual appropriation ¹ \$'000	Adjustments to appropriation ² \$'000	Total appropriation \$'000	Appropriation applied in 2025 \$'000	Variance \$'000
Departmental					
Ordinary annual services	22,976	1,062	24,038	25,642	(1,603)
Capital Budget ³	1,317	-	1,317	747	570
Total departmental	24,293	1,062	25,355	26,389	(1,033)
Administered					
Ordinary annual services					
Administered items	1,031,328	-	1,031,328	1,025,264	6,064
Total administered	1,031,328	-	1,031,328	1,025,264	6,064

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

2. \$1.062 million are retained revenue receipts under Section 74 of the PGPA Act.

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

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

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Departmental		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-25 - Operating	-	7,448
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-25 - Capital Budget	-	570
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-26 - Operating	4,936	-
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-26 - Capital Budget	229	-
Cash on hand or on deposit	414	295
Total departmental	5,579	8,312
Administered		
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2024-25	-	10,137
Appropriation Act (No. 1) 2025-26	15,912	-
Total administered	15,912	10,137

5.2 Special accounts ('recoverable GST exclusive')		
ARC Research Endowment Account (Administered)¹	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Balance brought forward from previous period	2,070	2,115
Increases		
Appropriation credited to special account	-	-
Recovery of unspent grant payments	-	-
Total increases	-	-
Available for payments	2,070	2,115
Decreases		
Payments made to research organisations	-	45
Total decreases	-	45
Total balance carried to the next period	2,070	2,070
Balance represented by:		
Cash held in the Official Public Account	2,070	2,070
Total balance carried to the next period	2,070	2,070

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. At present there are no funding commitments and no expected payments in relation to the PFAS remediation research initiative.

5.3 Net Cash Appropriation Arrangements

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Total comprehensive loss - as per the Statement of Comprehensive Income	(5,020)	(4,480)
Plus : depreciation/amortisation of assets funded through appropriations (departmental capital budget funding and/or equity injections) ¹	2,971	3,286
Plus : depreciation of right-of-use assets ²	1,677	1,964
Less : lease principal repayments	(1,174)	(2,434)
Net Cash Operating Deficit	(1,546)	(1,664)

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 appropriations. 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 ROU leased 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

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
6.1A: Employee provisions		
Leave and other benefits	4,819	5,193
Separations and redundancies	443	-
Total employee provisions	5,262	5,193

6.1B: Administered - employee provisions

Leave	33	23
Total employee provisions	33	23

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 is recognised and measured at the present value of the estimated future cash flows to be made in respect of all employees at 30 June 2026, using the long service leave shorthand model issued by the Department of Finance. 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 ARC recognises a provision for termination when it has developed a detailed formal plan for the terminations, communicated that plan to the affected employees, and the affected employees have accepted the terms of separation, such that the obligation can no longer be withdrawn.

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 employer contributions.

Accounting Judgements and Estimates

Employee provisions are dependent 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 having authority and responsibility for planning, directing and controlling the activities of the ARC, either directly or indirectly. For the 2025-26 financial year, the ARC Board Chair, the ARC Board Members and the CEO are assessed as KMP for the full accounting period.

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Short-term employee benefits	960	939
Post-employment benefits	118	127
Other long-term employee benefits	12	13
Termination benefits	-	-
Total key management personnel remuneration expenses¹	1,090	1,079

The total number of key management personnel included in the table above is eight individuals (2025: nine individuals).

One key management personnel, who is a CSIRO employee, did not receive remuneration from the ARC during the reporting period as remuneration is provided through their Commonwealth office. Accordingly, this individual is not included in the table above.

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 ARC.

6.3 Related Party Disclosures

Related party relationships:

The ARC is an Australian Government controlled entity. Related parties of the ARC include:

- a) Key Management Personnel (See Note 6.2 KMP)
- b) Portfolio and Cabinet Ministers
- c) Close family members of the persons identified in (1) and (2) above
- d) An entity which is controlled or jointly controlled by a member of the KMP, and
- e) Other entities controlled by the Australian Government, including those set out in Notes 1.2A and 1.2B.

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 include 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), the payment or refund of taxes, receipt of a Medicare rebate or higher education loans. These transactions have not been separately disclosed in this note.

Related party transactions are managed in accordance with the ARC's conflict of interest policy with availability of independent probity advice services during major grant and procurement processes when appropriate.

In 2025-26, no grants were awarded to KMP under AASB 124 Related Party Disclosures.

Giving consideration to relationships with related entities, and transactions entered into during the reporting period, it has been determined that the ARC has not entered into any transactions with a related party during the reporting period (2025: nil). It should be noted that in all transactions where the KMP are affected by a relationship, they exclude themselves from decision processes and/or management of the contract or arrangement.

There is one (2025: one) existing grant agreement where members of the ARC's KMP have an interest.

An ARC Board Member, who was appointed on 01 July 2024, received grant funding through the University of Tasmania prior to their appointment. The grant was awarded in 2021 for the amount of \$438,408.21, which was paid periodically by the ARC until December 2023.

The project deliverables have not been completed as at 30 June 2026 due to exceptional circumstances delaying the start of the project and the temporary suspension of the project due to Chief Investigator engagement in other competing priorities. The project is now expected to be completed in very early 2027.

The grant was awarded to rectify three significant gaps in Indigenous research in relation to data, policy development and statistical literacy and capability.

Managing uncertainties

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

7.1A: Contingent assets and liabilities

There were no Departmental and Administered contingent assets and liabilities in 2025-26 for the ARC (2024-25: nil).

Accounting Policy

Contingent liabilities and contingent assets are not recognised in the statement of financial position but are reported in the notes. These amounts 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

	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
7.2A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	414	295
Goods and services receivables	-	132
Total financial assets at amortised cost	414	427
Total financial assets	414	427
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Suppliers	117	198
Other Payables	698	772
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	815	970
Total financial liabilities	815	970

Accounting Policy

Financial assets

In accordance with AASB 9 *Financial Instruments*, the ARC 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; or
- c) financial assets measured at amortised cost.

The classification depends on both the ARC'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 ARC 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 excluding GST. 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

	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
7.3A: Categories of financial instruments		
Financial assets at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	2,070	2,070
Receivables from Universities ¹	42,384	-
Total financial assets at amortised cost	44,454	2,070
Total financial assets	44,454	2,070
Financial Liabilities		
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Grants payables	208,449	164,011
Other payables	1,205	970
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	209,654	164,981
Total financial liabilities	209,654	164,981

¹In June 2026, an invoice for \$42.38 million was raised to the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia in relation to ARC grant funding transferred as part of the Adelaide University merger. The amount was received in August 2026.

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. The report was delivered in June 2026 and confirms that the fair values of assets across all classes are not materially different from their carrying values.

7.4A: Fair value measurement

	Fair value measurements at the end of the reporting	
	2026	2025
	\$'000	\$'000
Non-financial assets¹		
Buildings	7,039	653
Plant and Equipment	998	1,133
Total non-financial assets	8,037	1,786

1. The ARC did not measure any non-financial assets (NFAs) at fair value on a non-recurring basis as at 30 June 2026.

ARC recognises all Administered assets and liabilities at amortised cost.

Other information

8.1 Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

8.1A: Current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

	Notes	2026 \$'000	2025 \$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:			
No more than 12 months			
Cash and cash equivalents	3.1A	414	295
Trade and other receivables	3.1B	5,186	8,206
Prepayments		389	659
Land and buildings	3.2A	-	653
Plant and equipment	3.2A	-	139
Total no more than 12 months		5,989	9,952
More than 12 months			
Prepayments		153	-
Land and buildings	3.2A	7,039	-
Plant and equipment	3.2A	998	994
Computer software	3.2A	2,341	4,877
Total more than 12 months		10,531	5,871
Total assets		16,520	15,823
Liabilities expected to be settled in:			
No more than 12 months			
Suppliers	3.3A	117	198
Other payables	3.3B	698	772
Leases	3.4A	957	569
Employee provisions	6.1A	2,192	1,830
Other provisions	3.5A	-	1,036
Total no more than 12 months		3,964	4,405
More than 12 months			
Leases	3.4A	6,118	-
Employee provisions	6.1A	3,070	3,363
Other provisions	3.5A	-	-
Total more than 12 months		9,188	3,363
Total liabilities		13,152	7,768

8.1B: Administered - current/non-current distinction for assets and liabilities

		2026	2025
	Notes	\$'000	\$'000
Assets expected to be recovered in:			
No more than 12 months			
Cash and cash equivalents	4.1A	2,070	2,070
Trade and other receivables	4.1B	42,584	312
Prepayments		40	86
Total no more than 12 months		44,694	2,468
More than 12 months			
Prepayments		24	-
Total more than 12 months		24	-
Total assets		44,718	2,468
Liabilities expected to be settled in:			
No more than 12 months			
Suppliers	4.2A	307	-
Grants	4.2A	208,449	164,011
Other payables	4.2B	1,205	970
Employee provisions	6.1B	16	12
Total no more than 12 months		209,977	164,993
More than 12 months			
Employee provisions	6.1B	17	11
Total more than 12 months		17	11
Total liabilities		209,994	165,004

PART 05

Appendices

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Appendix 1

NCGP overview

This appendix provides information to support the annual performance statements ([Section 2](#)) for the NCGP – funding of excellent pure basic research, strategic basic research and applied research in all disciplines (excluding medical research). The NCGP comprises 2 programs: the Discovery Program ([Table 31](#)) and the Linkage Program ([Table 32](#)).

Table 31: Discovery Program overview

Discovery Program	
Discovery funding recognises the importance of fundamental, ‘blue sky’ research to Australia. It supports the national innovation system to build new knowledge and a knowledge-based economy through developing new ideas/knowledge, creating jobs, economic growth and enhanced quality of life in Australia.	
The Discovery Program delivers benefits to Australia by building national research capacity through support for:	
• excellent, internationally competitive research by individuals and teams • research training and career opportunities for the best Australian and international researchers • international collaboration • research in Australian Government priority areas.	
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 attracting and retaining outstanding researchers and research leaders of international reputation, with exceptional ability to lead, collaborate, mentor and supervise, and enhances their capacity to create an enduring legacy.
Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2012
Frequency:	Annual
Description:	The DECRA scheme supports outstanding early-career researchers with demonstrated capacity for high-quality research and emerging capability for leadership and supervision, helping advance promising early career researchers by providing focused research support in both teaching and research, and in research-only positions.

Discovery Program	
Discovery Indigenous (IN)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2002 under the Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development scheme. Funding commencing in 2012 as IN.
Frequency:	Annual
Description:	The IN scheme supports the retention of excellent Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander researchers in higher education institutions. It expands Australia's research capacity by funding Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander-led research and research training across pure basic, strategic basic and applied research, and provides 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 supports excellent pure basic, strategic basic and applied research and research training to expand research capacity in Australia. It 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 outstanding mid-career researchers with demonstrated capacity for high-quality research, leadership, research training and mentoring to undertake high-quality research that fosters national and international collaboration in areas of national and international benefit.

Table 32: Linkage Program overview

Linkage Program	
The purpose of the Linkage Program is to promote 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 the transfer of skills, knowledge and ideas as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.	
ARC Centres of Excellence (CE)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2003
Frequency:	Periodic – every 3 years
Description:	ARC Centres of Excellence are prestigious focal points of expertise through which high-quality researchers collaboratively maintain and develop Australia’s international standing in research areas of national priority. The CE grant opportunity facilitates significant collaboration at scale, which enables the complementary resources of universities, other research organisations, governments and businesses, and not-for-profit organisations to support outstanding pure basic, strategic basic and applied research in all fields (except 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 create innovative and transformative solutions for industry. Research Hubs undertake cutting-edge research on new technologies and economic, commercial and social transformation to benefit industry partners.
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 Program	
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency:	Annual
Description:	The LIEF scheme funds essential research infrastructure, equipment and facilities where existing resources are unavailable, inaccessible or outdated. It supports collaboration by enabling shared use of research infrastructure across universities, industry and national or international facilities.
Linkage Projects (LP)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency:	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 or acquire new knowledge as a basis for securing commercial and other benefits of research.
Early Career Industry Fellowships (IE)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2023
Frequency:	Annual
Description:	The primary goal of the IE scheme is to develop the industry collaboration skills of early career researchers and support early career researchers to achieve translatable and/or commercialisable outcomes.
Mid-Career Industry Fellowships (IM)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2023
Frequency:	Annual
Description:	The primary goals of the IM scheme are to strengthen the industry collaboration skills of mid-career researchers; encourage uptake of a wider range of career options for established researchers; nurture the development of collaboration, commercialisation and translation skills; and deliver significant, actionable outcomes for industry partners and end-users.

Linkage Program	
Industry Laureate Fellowships (IL)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2023
Frequency:	Annual
Description:	The IL scheme supports outstanding researchers and research leaders of international reputation to lead the development of high-quality, impactful university-industry collaborations. It funds significant research programs, provides excellent research training environments for early career researchers and students, and drives research translation, commercialisation and collaboration across industry.
Special Research Initiatives (SRI)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency:	As required
Description:	The SRI scheme provides support for new or emerging areas of research and builds capacity in strategically important areas to improve Australia's global competitiveness. Applications for funding may be submitted only through ARC by invitation.
Learned Academies Special Projects (LASP)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2002
Frequency:	As required
Description:	The objective of the LASP scheme is to support Learned Academies and the Australian Council of Learned Academies to undertake policy and strategic research projects. Research programs must encompass research that advances Australian research itself and/or addresses substantive themes.
Supporting Responses to Commonwealth Science Council Priorities (CS)	
First selection round:	Funding commencing in 2018
Frequency:	As required
Description:	The CS 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 and the Learned Academies.

Appendix 2 NCGP statistics

This appendix details statistics for the most recent scheme rounds of NCGP funding schemes.

Table 33: Discovery Program selection outcomes and funding by scheme round and reporting period

Scheme round (and reporting period) ³²				
Discovery Projects (DP)	DP 2023 (2022–23)	DP 2024 (2023–24)	DP 2025 (2024–25)	DP 2026 (2025–26)
Number of applications	2,588	2,590	1,132	1,123
Number of awards	478	421	536	532
Success rate (%)	18.5	16.3	47.3	47.4
Total funding (\$)	221,394,142	220,182,441	342,168,489	381,106,133
Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)	DECRA 2023 (2022–23)	DECRA 2024 (2023–24)	DECRA 2025 (2024–25)	DECRA 2026 (2025–26)
Number of applications	1,335	1,023	1,120	1,532
Number of awards	200	200	200	200
Success rate (%)	15	19.6	17.9	13.1
Total funding (\$)	85,790,883	86,296,282	92,996,128	102,793,175
Future Fellowships (FT)	FT 2022 (2022–23)	FT 2023 (2023–24)	FT 2024 (2024–25)	FT 2025 (2025–26)
Number of applications	627	505	602	664
Number of awards	100	100	100	100
Success rate (%)	15.9	19.8	16.6	15.1
Total funding (\$)	94,249,836	97,623,550	106,795,396	114,606,070
Australian Laureate Fellowships (FL)	FL 2023 (2023–24)	FL 2024 (2023–24)	FL 2025 (2024–25)	-
Number of applications	119	128	136	-
Number of awards	17	17	17	-
Success rate (%)	14.3	13.3	12.5	-
Total funding (\$)	53,912,540	58,342,497	65,257,375	-
Discovery Indigenous (IN)	IN 2023 (2022–23)	IN 2024 (2023–24)	IN 2025 (2024–25)	IN 2026 (2025–26)
Number of applications	27	34	32	43
Number of awards	10	9	11	16
Success rate (%)	37	26.5	34.4	37.2
Total funding (\$)	7,535,365	8,968,522	11,008,555	18,478,534

32 The reporting period is the period where outcomes were finalised (i.e. a funding announcement occurred).

Table 34: Linkage Program selection outcomes and funding by scheme round and reporting period

Scheme round (and reporting period)				
ARC Centres of Excellence (CE) ³³	CE 2017 (2016–17)	CE 2020 (2019–20)	CE 2023 (2022–23)	CE 2026 (2025–26)
Number of Expressions of Interest (EOI)	97	93	101	85
Number of EOI shortlisted	20	20	17	18
EOI success rate (%)	20.6	21.5	16.8	21.2
Number of applications funded	9	9	11	8
Application success rate (%)	45	45	64.7	44.4
Total funding (\$)	283,500,000	308,790,287	384,905,274	279,847,731
Industrial Transformation Research Hubs (ITRH)	ITRH 2022 (2021–22)	ITRH 2023 (2022–23)	ITRH 2024 (2023–24)	ITRH 2025 (2025–26)
Number of applications	12	7	16	13
Number of awards	4	5	7	6
Success rate (%)	33.3	71.4	43.8	46.2
Total funding (\$)	17,768,172	24,889,184	34,731,325	27,393,326
Industrial Transformation Training Centres (ITTC)	ITTC 2022 (2021–22)	ITTC 2023 (2022–23)	ITTC 2024 (2023–24)	ITTC 2025 (2025–26)
Number of applications	21	23	22	29
Number of awards	6	8	6	7
Success rate (%)	28.6	34.8	27.3	24.1
Total funding (\$)	29,285,604	39,999,600	29,806,404	34,747,996
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF)	LIEF 2023 (2022–23)	LIEF 2024 (2023–24)	LIEF 2025 (2024–25)	LIEF 2026 (2025–26)
Number of applications	133	103	125	133
Number of awards	45	35	36	31
Success rate (%)	33.8	34.0	28.8	23.3
Total funding (\$)	39,515,942	28,158,347	38,205,896	36,168,808

33 CE rounds are run periodically. The most recent round (CE 2026) was finalised in 2025–26.

Scheme round (and reporting period)				
Linkage Projects (LP)	LP 2022 ³⁴ (2022–23)	LP 2023 ³⁵ (2023–24)	LP 2024 ³⁶ (2024–25)	LP 2025 ³⁷ (2025–26)
Number of applications	401	445	422	543
Number of awards	138	122	131	227
Success rate (%)	34.4	27.4	31	41.8
Total funding (\$)	68,129,083	69,182,696	76,578,742	123,265,596
Early Career Industry Fellowships (IE) ³⁸	-	IE 2023 (2023–24)	IE 2024 (2023–24)	IE 2025 (2025–26)
Number of applications	-	359	185	180
Number of awards	-	50	50	50
Success rate (%)	-	13.9	27	27.8
Total funding (\$)	-	22,227,166	22,516,041	24,737,124
Mid-Career Industry Fellowships (IM)	-	IM 2023 (2023–24)	IM 2024 (2023–24)	IM 2025 (2025–26)
Number of applications	-	314	109	147
Number of awards	-	25	25	25
Success rate (%)	-	8	22.9	17
Total funding (\$)	-	23,840,576	25,695,428	28,123,055
Industry Laureate Fellowships (IL)	-	IL 2023 (2023–24)	IL 2024 (2023–24)	IL 2025 (2025–26)
Number of applications	-	116	53	48
Number of awards	-	8	8	8
Success rate (%)	-	6.9	15.1	16.7
Total funding (\$)	-	27,709,549	27,439,189	30,400,035
Special Research Initiatives (SRI)	SRI 2020 Round 1 ³⁹ (2019–20)	SRI 2020 Round 2 ⁴⁰ (2020–21)	-	-
Number of applications	20	692	-	-
Number of awards	2	49	-	-
Success rate (%)	10	7.1	-	-
Total funding (\$)	56,000,000	11,759,398	-	-

34 LP 2022 includes all applications received for funding under the 2022 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2022 selection round may commence in 2022 or 2023.

35 LP 2023 includes all applications received for funding under the 2023 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2023 selection round may commence in 2023 or 2024.

36 LP 2024 includes all applications received for funding under the 2024 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2024 selection round commences in 2025.

37 LP 2025 includes all applications received for funding under the 2025 selection round. Funding for projects in the 2025 selection round commences in 2026.

38 IE 2023, IM 2023, and IL 2023 are the inaugural rounds of the ARC's Industry Fellowships scheme, with funding commencing in 2023.

39 SRI 2020 round 1 refers to the Excellence in Antarctic Science Program, which was reported in the 2019–20 financial year.

40 SRI 2020 round 2 refers to the Australian Society, History and Culture scheme, which received a ministerial decision in the 2020–21 reporting period.

Appendix 3 ARC Act reporting requirements

This appendix provides information required to be included in the Annual Report under section 65A of the ARC Act, relating to:

- particulars of any directions (by legislative instrument) given by the Minister for Education (Minister) to the Board under section 10 of the ARC Act about the performance of the Board's functions or the exercise of its powers, during the reporting period
- particulars of any directions (not a legislative instrument) given by the Board under section 40B of the ARC Act to the CEO during the reporting period about the performance of the CEO's functions
- the number of decisions made by the Minister during the reporting period, under each of subsections 47(8), 48(6) and 52(1) of the ARC Act, where the Minister considers that for reasons relevant to the security, defence, or international relations of Australia: the Board should not provide funding approval to an organisation; the Minister must refuse to give funding approval to an organisation; or a funding approval should be terminated
- information, in respect of each organisation receiving financial assistance under a funding agreement which ended or was terminated during the reporting period, about the nature of the employment of researchers employed by the organisation for the purposes of a research project mentioned in the funding agreement
- an outline of any other matters that the Minister, by notice in writing to the Chair of the Board, requires to be dealt with in the annual report.

Reportable directions and decisions

During 2025–2026:

- The Minister communicated to the Chair of the Board through a [Statement of Expectations in March 2026](#).
- There were no particulars of any directions given by the Board to the CEO about the performance of the CEO's functions during the reporting period.
- On 14 May 2026, the Minister informed the Parliament that he had made decisions to refuse funding for 13 grant applications under the ARC's NCGP for reasons relevant to the security, defence or international relations of Australia. These decisions were made under section 47(8) of the ARC Act.⁴¹ The decisions related to:
 - six Discovery Projects 2026 (DP26) applications
 - two Linkage Projects 2025 Round 1 (LP25R1) applications
 - two Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities 2026 (LE26) applications
 - three Linkage Projects 2025 Round 2 (LP25R2) applications.

⁴¹ For national interest reasons, no further public details of the individual grant applications, institutions or researchers involved in the decisions under section 47(8) of the ARC Act will be provided.

- The Minister did not make any decisions under sections 48(6) and 52(1) of this legislation.
- There were no relevant matters to be dealt with in the Annual Report as required under section 65A(d) of the ARC Act.

Researcher employment

There were 100 funding agreements, between the ARC and 39 Administering Organisations, that ended or were terminated (i.e. concluded) during the 2025–26 reporting period (**Table 35**).

Of the total 1,231 projects that concluded during 2025–26, researcher employment data was provided by Administering Organisations for 549 projects. **Tables 36 to 41** provide an overview of the researchers and research assistants employed for the purpose of those projects, over the life span of the project.

Data notes

The following applies to all data included in this appendix:

- The 2025–26 reporting period is based on the financial year (1 July 2025 to 30 June 2026), inclusive of start and end dates.
- ‘Administering Organisation’ means the organisation that was receiving financial assistance at the time of conclusion.
- ‘Researcher’ means includes all named Chief Investigators (from all organisations) and all ARC-budgeted researcher positions including post-doctorates and research assistants who are employed at any point for the purposes of the funding agreement or research project.
 - Number of researchers is not based on a distinct count meaning there may be duplication due to researchers being employed (i.e. counted) across multiple projects/funding agreements or multiple years of the same project.
 - Researcher count is based on the Administering Organisation for each project/funding agreement, not the primary employer of the researcher.
- ‘Funding agreement’ means an agreement under section 49(1) (including as varied) of the ARC Act; this is also known as a Grant Agreement.
- ‘Concluded’ means the funding agreements or project was ended or terminated.
- Level of employment is categorised as per the Fair Work Ombudsman’s [Higher Education Academic Staff Award \[MA000006\]](#) (academic levels) and [Higher Education General Staff Award \[MA000007\]](#) (professional levels).
- **Tables 36 to 41** only include data as reported to the ARC from the 32 Administering Organisations who provided data within the ARC’s requested timeframe.
- Data may not be included where a funding agreement was terminated during the reporting period, and the Administering Organisation was not required to provide the ARC with this information.

Table 35: Funding agreements and research projects concluded, by Administering Organisation (2025–26)

Administering Organisation	Funding agreements concluded	Research projects concluded
Adelaide University ⁴²	2	14
Australian Catholic University	2	4
Bond University	2	2
Central Queensland University	2	2
Charles Darwin University	1	5
Charles Sturt University	1	2
Curtin University	3	19
Deakin University	3	25
Edith Cowan University	0	1
Flinders University	5	24
Griffith University	3	26
James Cook University	2	4
La Trobe University	2	20
Macquarie University	1	44
Monash University	2	122
Murdoch University	1	2
Queensland University of Technology	7	49
RMIT University	2	36
Southern Cross University	2	3
Swinburne University of Technology	3	17
The Australian National University	3	87

⁴² Adelaide University commenced operations on 1 January 2026. therefore, funding agreements that concluded for Adelaide University are between 1 January 2026 and 30 June 2026.

Administering Organisation	Funding agreements concluded	Research projects concluded
The University of Adelaide ⁴³	6	38
The University of Melbourne	1	128
The University of New England	1	2
The University of New South Wales	4	125
The University of Newcastle	3	24
The University of Queensland	4	111
The University of Sydney	3	124
The University of Western Australia	8	50
University of Canberra	3	5
University of Divinity	1	1
University of South Australia ⁴⁴	5	9
University of Southern Queensland	2	5
University of Tasmania	2	25
University of Technology Sydney	1	27
University of the Sunshine Coast	2	4
University of Wollongong	2	23
Victoria University	1	2
Western Sydney University	2	20
Total	100	1,231

43 University of Adelaide concluded operations on 31 December 2025. Therefore, funding agreements that concluded for University of Adelaide are between 1 July 2025 and 31 December 2025. All ongoing projects for University of Adelaide have been transferred to Adelaide University.

44 University of South Australia concluded operations on 31 December 2025. Therefore, funding agreements that concluded for University of South Australia are between 1 July 2025 and 31 December 2025. All ongoing projects for University of South Australia have been transferred to Adelaide University.

Employment type

Table 36: Proportion of researchers employed over the lifespan of concluded projects, by employment type (2025–26)

Employment type	Proportion (%)
Ongoing	53.13
Ongoing full-time	45.62
Ongoing part-time	4.12
Ongoing casual	3.39
Fixed term	46.87
Fixed term full-time	26.77
Fixed term part-time	10.20
Fixed term casual	9.90

Table 37: Proportion of researchers employed over the lifespan of concluded projects, by employment type and Administering Organisation (2025–26)

Administering Organisation	Ongoing (%)				Fixed term (%)				Total (%)
	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	Total	
Australian Catholic University	59.26	3.70	0.00	62.96	14.81	2.47	19.75	37.04	59.26
Central Queensland University	60.00	0.00	0.00	60.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	60.00
Charles Darwin University	33.33	11.90	0.00	45.24	40.48	2.38	11.90	54.76	33.33
Curtin University	18.75	3.13	3.13	25.00	21.88	28.13	25.00	75.00	18.75
Deakin University	35.64	2.56	1.54	39.74	15.38	23.85	21.03	60.26	35.64
Edith Cowan University	75.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	25.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	75.00
Flinders University	56.79	4.53	13.24	74.56	5.57	12.54	7.32	25.44	56.79
Griffith University	47.59	0.60	0.00	48.19	22.89	21.69	7.23	51.81	47.59
James Cook University	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00	0.00	0.00	50.00	50.00
La Trobe University	33.33	0.00	0.00	33.33	50.00	16.67	0.00	66.67	33.33
Macquarie University	42.20	0.00	18.44	60.64	20.92	7.80	10.64	39.36	42.20
Monash University	43.33	3.72	3.66	50.71	33.83	8.19	7.26	49.29	43.33
Murdoch University	55.56	0.00	0.00	55.56	16.67	0.00	27.78	44.44	55.56
Queensland University of Technology	54.03	0.81	0.00	54.84	16.94	16.13	12.10	45.16	54.03
RMIT University	45.90	2.73	3.28	51.91	16.94	23.50	7.65	48.09	45.90
Swinburne University of Technology	51.32	0.00	0.00	51.32	19.74	12.72	16.23	48.68	51.32
The Australian National University	43.46	0.75	3.48	47.70	39.98	4.70	7.62	52.30	43.46
The University of Adelaide	32.84	0.00	0.00	32.84	43.28	17.91	5.97	67.16	32.84
The University of Melbourne	40.99	8.81	0.88	50.68	26.18	12.49	10.65	49.32	40.99

Administering Organisation	Ongoing (%)				Fixed term (%)				Total (%)
	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	Total	Full-time	Part-time	Casual	Total	
The University of New England	75.00	0.00	0.00	75.00	0.00	0.00	25.00	25.00	75.00
The University of New South Wales	44.22	4.72	5.37	54.32	33.31	6.84	5.54	45.68	44.22
The University of Newcastle	60.19	1.85	0.00	62.04	27.78	1.85	8.33	37.96	60.19
The University of Queensland	63.59	2.05	0.51	66.15	13.85	2.56	17.44	33.85	63.59
The University of Sydney	45.69	11.02	0.00	56.71	19.33	8.31	15.65	43.29	45.69
The University of Western Australia	65.33	0.00	0.00	65.33	12.00	12.00	10.67	34.67	65.33
University of Southern Queensland	90.70	0.00	0.00	90.70	9.30	0.00	0.00	9.30	90.70
University of Tasmania	49.00	4.00	0.50	53.50	27.00	11.50	8.00	46.50	49.00
University of Technology Sydney	60.24	0.00	0.60	60.84	27.71	0.00	11.45	39.16	60.24
University of the Sunshine Coast	56.10	0.00	17.07	73.17	4.88	10.57	11.38	26.83	56.10
University of Wollongong	46.51	0.00	0.00	46.51	10.47	36.05	6.98	53.49	46.51
Western Sydney University	28.40	11.11	0.00	39.51	24.69	11.11	24.69	60.49	28.40
Total	45.62	4.12	3.39	53.13	26.77	10.20	9.90	46.87	100

Level of employment

Table 38: Proportion of researchers employed over the lifespan of concluded projects, by level of employment type (2025–26)

Level of employment	Proportion (%)
Academic level	86.25
E	32.89
D	13.43
C	12.70
B	11.03
A	16.19
Professional level (or equivalent)	13.75
1	0.29
2	0.32
3	0.51
4	1.92
5	5.22
6	3.10
7	0.70
8	0.72
9	0.72
10	0.25

Administering Organisation	Academic Level (%)						Professional level or equivalent (%)											Total (%)
	E	D	C	B	A	Total	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total	
The University of New South Wales	31.55	12.36	13.84	7.00	21.33	86.08	0.00	0.58	0.66	1.15	7.41	2.22	0.49	0.66	0.74	0.00	13.92	13.41
The University of Newcastle	56.48	5.56	8.33	14.81	6.48	91.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.48	1.85	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.33	1.19
The University of Queensland	33.85	18.46	9.74	13.33	6.67	82.05	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.67	7.69	2.05	0.00	1.54	0.00	0.00	17.95	2.15
The University of Sydney	31.66	12.13	11.54	12.13	9.47	76.92	0.15	0.00	1.92	1.78	6.36	6.66	2.51	2.07	1.63	0.00	23.08	7.47
The University of Western Australia	37.33	32.00	8.00	4.00	8.00	89.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.67	1.66
University of Southern Queensland	55.81	13.95	20.93	4.65	0.00	95.35	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.65	0.47
University of Tasmania	36.60	13.92	15.46	19.59	6.19	91.75	1.03	0.00	0.00	3.09	4.12	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	8.25	2.14
University of Technology Sydney	31.21	8.67	19.08	6.94	21.39	87.28	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	10.40	0.00	2.31	0.00	0.00	0.00	12.72	1.91
University of the Sunshine Coast	36.62	12.68	14.08	2.82	0.00	66.20	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.23	2.11	27.46	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	33.80	1.57
University of Wollongong	30.23	3.49	17.44	16.28	19.77	87.21	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4.65	6.98	0.00	1.16	0.00	0.00	12.79	0.95
Western Sydney University	12.00	13.33	12.00	17.33	16.00	70.67	8.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.67	12.00	0.00	0.00	6.67	0.00	29.33	0.83
Total	32.89	13.43	12.70	11.03	16.19	86.25	0.29	0.32	0.51	1.92	5.22	3.10	0.70	0.72	0.72	0.25	13.75	100

Gender

Table 40: Proportion of researchers employed over the lifespan of concluded projects, by gender (2025–26)

Gender	Proportion (%)
Man	54.98
Woman	38.67
Non-binary	0.42
Uses a different term	0.00
Prefers not to say	5.93

Table 41: Proportion of researchers employed over the lifespan of concluded projects, by gender and Administering Organisation (2025–26)

Administering Organisation	Man (%)	Woman (%)	Non-binary (%)	Uses a different term (%)	Prefers not to say (%)	Total (%)
Australian Catholic University	20.00	80.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Central Queensland University	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.06
Charles Darwin University	59.52	30.95	9.52	0.00	0.00	0.20
Curtin University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	0.00
Deakin University	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	100.00	4.32
Edith Cowan University	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.46
Flinders University	56.70	42.61	0.69	0.00	0.00	3.18
Griffith University	48.57	50.86	0.57	0.00	0.00	0.04
James Cook University	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
La Trobe University	66.67	33.33	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.90
Macquarie University	57.86	42.14	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Monash University	56.25	40.42	0.12	0.00	3.20	17.83
Murdoch University	33.33	66.67	0.00	0.00	0.00	6.93
Queensland University of Technology	61.29	38.71	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
RMIT University	66.12	33.88	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Swinburne University of Technology	73.68	25.00	1.32	0.00	0.00	2.52
The Australian National University	58.75	40.28	0.09	0.00	0.88	11.76
The University of Adelaide	68.66	31.34	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The University of Melbourne	43.66	51.34	0.83	0.00	4.17	13.82
The University of New England	0.00	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
The University of New South Wales	69.64	29.24	0.24	0.00	0.88	13.59
The University of Newcastle	81.48	16.67	0.00	0.00	1.85	1.20

Administering Organisation	Man (%)	Woman (%)	Non-binary (%)	Uses a different term (%)	Prefers not to say (%)	Total (%)
The University of Queensland	58.76	41.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.16
The University of Sydney	58.58	41.25	0.00	0.00	0.17	1.84
The University of Western Australia	78.21	21.79	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
University of Southern Queensland	81.40	18.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
University of Tasmania	52.48	47.52	0.00	0.00	0.00	2.21
University of Technology Sydney	84.97	15.03	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.07
University of the Sunshine Coast	4.26	87.23	8.51	0.00	0.00	1.36
University of Wollongong	45.35	54.65	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.95
Western Sydney University	24.42	75.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	1.84
Total	54.98	38.67	0.42	0.00	5.93	–

Appendix 4 Other mandatory information

This appendix provides information required by other legislation, relating to:

- advertising and market research (section 311A of the [Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918](#))
- the [Commonwealth Child Safe Framework](#) (CCSF) and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations
- work health and safety (schedule 2, part 4 of the WHS Act)
- ecologically sustainable development and environmental performance (section 516A of the [Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999](#)).

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

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 2025–26, there were no advertising campaigns conducted by the ARC and the ARC did not employ the services of any market research, polling or direct mail organisations.

Annual Statement of Compliance with the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework

The ARC is committed to promoting the safety and wellbeing of children and young people and to meeting its obligations under the Commonwealth Child Safe Framework (CCSF).

An assessment of child safety related risks was undertaken by the ARC in 2025–26 and determined that the ARC's overarching residual risk rating is low. Key risks identified related to non-compliance with the CCSF and the National Principles for Child Safe Organisations by organisations receiving funding from the ARC, at a project level.

The ARC has a range of controls in place to address these risks including:

- the inclusion of child safety clauses in ARC Grant Agreements for funded third parties
- annual assurance from Administering Organisations regarding compliance with the child safety clauses in applicable ARC Grant Agreements at a project level
- the provision of training for ARC staff on the requirements of the CCSF to ensure an understanding of their role in fostering child safety.

The ARC is compliant with all requirements of the CCSF.

Key child safety activities undertaken in 2025–26 included the provision of mandatory CCSF training to all ARC staff, including contractors, annual assurance of ARC-funded grant activities, and evaluation and enhancement of internal child safety procedures.

Disability reporting mechanism

[*Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031*](#) (Disability Strategy) is the overarching framework for inclusive policies, programs and infrastructure that will support people with disability to participate in all areas of Australian life. The Disability Strategy sets out where practical changes will be made to improve the lives of people with disability in Australia. It acts to ensure the principles underpinning the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are incorporated into Australia's policies and programs that affect people with disability, their families and carers. All levels of government have committed to deliver more comprehensive and visible reporting under the Disability Strategy. A range of reports on progress of the Disability Strategy's actions and outcome areas will be published and available on the Disability Gateway website, www.disabilitygateway.gov.au.

Disability reporting is included the Australian Public Service Commission's [*State of the Service reports*](#). These reports are available on the Australian Public Service Commission's website, www.apsc.gov.au.

Web versions of the *ARC Annual Report 2025–26* conform with WCAG 2.2 AA accessibility requirements.

Work Health and Safety

In accordance with the WHS Act, agencies must provide information relating to Work Health and Safety (WHS) matters in their annual reports.

The ARC is committed to providing a safe and healthy workplace for employees, contractors, visitors and others who work with us. Oversight of WHS matters is supported through the ARC People Committee, which includes the agency's Health and Safety Representatives.

Throughout the 2025–26 financial year, the ARC maintained a range of initiatives to support employee health, safety and wellbeing, including:

- online WHS training
- access to and encourage use of the Employee Assistance Program
- training for first aid officers, fire wardens and health and safety representatives
- annual influenza vaccinations to employees and contractors
- flexible working
- workstation assessments where required
- access to wellbeing-related training and webinars.

No notifiable incidents occurred during 2025–26 that were reportable under section 38 of the WHS Act. The ARC was not issued with any WHS notices, and no investigations were undertaken under part 10 of the WHS Act during the reporting period.

Gender equality reporting

In line with commitments made under [*Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality*](#) (Working for Women), Australian Government departments have pledged to report on their efforts to achieve gender equality and build gender analysis capability in their annual reports.

Gender equality in ARC funding

Priority area 3: Economic equality and security

During 2025–26, the ARC continued its commitment to equitable access to research funding through the Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) Policy. ROPE provides a framework for assessing researchers' achievements in the context of their individual career pathways, opportunities, and life circumstances, ensuring that funding decisions reflect research performance relative to opportunity.

The policy applies across the NCGP and supports fair assessment of researchers from all disciplines and career stages, including those working in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) and humanities, arts and social sciences (HASS). Particular emphasis is placed on supporting researchers from under-represented groups, including women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers, and early- and mid-career researchers.

ROPE is embedded across ARC grant schemes, with implementation tailored to the objectives and eligibility requirements of each funding program. Guidance is provided through grant documentation, application systems and supporting materials to ensure consistent application of the policy. The ARC regularly reviews and updates ROPE mechanisms to improve clarity, reduce administrative burden and support streamlined grant processes.

ROPE remains a cornerstone of the ARC's commitment to fairness, diversity and excellence in research funding. By recognising achievement in the context of opportunity, the policy supports a more inclusive research ecosystem and helps ensure that funding decisions identify and reward research excellence wherever it occurs.

The ARC also ensures that Selection Advisory Committees (SAC) are composed of members with diverse expertise and experience, and explicit consideration is given to gender balance. A diverse SAC is critical to achieving equitable outcomes because it helps reduce the risk of unconscious bias and brings a broader range of perspectives, experiences and expertise to decision-making. Diverse committees are better equipped to recognise different forms of merit, identify structural barriers that may disadvantage certain groups, and ensure that assessment processes are fair and inclusive.

The ARC also publishes disaggregated data to provide accessible information on the relative submission volume, as well as success rates by gender for schemes across different discipline panel areas. This provides transparency at the panel level for gender outcomes across our schemes.

ARC research contributes to gender equality outcomes

The ARC supports research across all disciplines (excepting medical research), including projects that contribute to the priorities outlined in Working for Women. Three examples are provided below.

Priority area 1: Gender based violence

Funded in 2023, the ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEVAW) is headquartered at Monash University and comprises 13 Chief Investigators from 6 Australian universities, and 45 Australian and international partner organisations. Led by a team of women directors, the CEVAW received \$35 million in ARC funding to transform understanding of the problem by examining the structural drivers that cause and compound violence against women, and pioneer new, evidence-based approaches to radically improve policy and practice across Australia and the Indo-Pacific.

Deakin University received \$489,207 in the 2026 Discovery Projects funding round to investigate how young people interpret and respond to public and media discourse on gender-based violence (GBV). The project will explore how GBV prevention strategies, public campaigns, and educational programs can be improved to promote equity, reduce GBV prevalence, and drive long-term cultural change towards a more equitable society.

Priority area 3: Economic equality and security

The University of Sydney received \$281,227 in the 2022 Discovery Projects funding round to further our understanding of gender inequality in the post-pandemic future of work. The project will deliver insights on the gendered economic and social impact of the pandemic to inform policy makers and labour market stakeholders with evidence and insights to construct a post-pandemic gender equitable future of work.

Climate action in ARC operations

Ecologically sustainable development

Under section 516A of the *Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999* (EPBC Act), Commonwealth entities have a statutory requirement to report on environmental matters in their annual reports. The annual report must:

- report how the agency’s activities have accorded with the principles of Ecologically Sustainable Development (ESD)
- identify how the entity’s outcomes contributed to ESD
- report on the entity’s impacts upon the environment and measures taken to minimise those impacts
- identify the review mechanisms used to improve the effectiveness of measures to minimise its impact upon the environment.

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 42.

Table 42: Activities aligning with ESD principles

ESD principle	Linked ARC activity
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 NCGP schemes. Applications are assessed through a competitive peer review process.
Precautionary: 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 (except medical research), including research that contributes to understanding environmental risks and challenges and supports evidence-based decision-making.
Intergenerational: the present generation should ensure that the health, diversity and productivity of the environment is maintained or enhanced for the benefit of future generations.	Through the NCGP, the ARC invests in research and research capability that contributes to building the knowledge and expertise needed to address future environmental, social and economic challenges.

ESD principle	Linked ARC activity
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> , which requires researchers to conduct research in a way that minimises 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.

Emissions reduction plan

Under the government's [Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy](#) (Net Zero Strategy), all entities are required to develop a long-term emissions reduction plan, outlining the priorities and actions that will be taken to support the Australian Government's commitment to achieve net zero emissions in government operations by 2030.

The [ARC Emissions Reduction Plan](#) was published in June 2024 and outlines the ARC's operational context, priorities and actions to improve environmental performance and reduce operational emissions.

During 2025–26, the ARC relocated to new office premises. The relocation is expected to reduce the ARC's operational emissions through the improved environmental performance of the new premises. Given the impact of the relocation on the ARC's emissions profile, the ARC intends to review and update its Emissions Reduction Plan during 2026–27 to reflect its new operating environment.

Emissions reporting

As part of the reporting requirements under the EPBC Act (section 516A) and the Net Zero Strategy, all non-corporate Commonwealth entities are required to publicly report on the emissions from their operations.

There are 7 greenhouse gases identified as relevant to the Net Zero Strategy target and public reporting. There are 3 categories identified as sources of these greenhouse emissions, based on where they occur in the supply chain of the responsible entity. The 7 greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, sulphur hexafluoride and nitrogen trifluoride.

The 3 categories of emission source activities are as follows:

- Scope 1 is direct emissions from entity facilities and company owned vehicles (natural gas, fleet vehicles, refrigerants)
- Scope 2 is indirect emissions from purchased electricity, steam, heating and cooling for own use (electricity in buildings)
- Scope 3 is all other indirect emissions, including from leased assets up and down stream (waste, domestic commercial flights, hire cars, accommodation).

The ARC's inventory of greenhouse gas emissions in the 3 source categories presents greenhouse gas emissions over the 2025–26 reporting period. ARC emissions reporting can be accessed through the [Transparency Portal](#).

Correction of information published in previous annual reports

No corrections to information published in previous annual reports were identified during the reporting period.

PART 06

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6.2 Abbreviations and acronyms

A	
AC	Companion of the Order of Australia
ACCESS	Australian Community Climate and Earth System Simulator
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
AEA	Australia's Economic Accelerator
AI	Artificial Intelligence
AIATSIS	Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies
AM	Member of the Order of Australia
ANAO	Australian National Audit Office
Annual Report	<i>Annual Report 2025–26</i>
ANU	Australian National University
ANZSRC	Australian and New Zealand Standard Research Classification
APS	Australian Public Service
ARC	Australian Research Council
ARC Enterprise Agreement	<i>ARC Enterprise Agreement 2024–2027</i>
ARC Strategy	<i>ARC Strategy 2026–2035</i>
ARC Act	<i>Australian Research Council Act 2001</i>
ARIC	Australian Research Integrity Committee
B	
Board	ARC Board
C	
CCSF	Commonwealth Child Safe Framework
CE	ARC Centres of Excellence
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CEVAW	ARC Centre of Excellence for the Elimination of Violence Against Women
Code	<i>Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research 2018</i>
College	ARC College of Experts
COO	Chief Operating Officer
Corporate Plan	<i>ARC Corporate Plan 2025–26</i>
CPA	Certified Practising Accountant
CS	Supporting Responses to Commonwealth Science Council Priorities
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation

D	
DAFF	Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry
DECRA	Discovery Early Career Researcher Award
Deputy CEO	Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Disability Strategy	<i>Australia's Disability Strategy 2021–2031</i>
DNA	Deoxyribonucleic acid, the molecule that carries the genetic instructions for life
DP	Discovery Projects
E	
EDGE	Earth Dynamics Geodetic Explorer
EL	Executive Level
EOI	Expressions of Interest
EPBC Act	<i>Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999</i>
ERA	Excellence in Research for Australia
ESD	Ecologically Sustainable Development
F	
FAA	Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science
FAIR	Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable
FASSA	Fellow of the Academy of the Social Sciences in Australia
FL	Australian Laureate Fellowships
FOI Act	<i>Freedom of Information Act 1982</i>
FoR	Fields of Research
FRS	Fellow of the Royal Society
FT	Future Fellowships
G	
GBV	Gender-based violence
GST	Goods and Services Tax
H	
HASS	Humanities, arts and social sciences
Hon	The Honourable
I	
ICT	Information and Communications Technology
IE	Early Career Industry Fellowships
IL	Industry Laureate Fellowships
IM	Mid-Career Industry Fellowships
IN	Discovery Indigenous
ITRH	Industrial Transformation Research Hubs
ITTC	Industrial Transformation Training Centres

L	
LASP	Learned Academies Special Projects
LIEF	Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
LP	Linkage Projects
M	
Minister	Minister for Education
MP	Member of Parliament
MRAG	ARC Medical Research Advisory Group
N	
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration
NCGP	National Competitive Grants Program
NCRIS	National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy
Net Zero Strategy	<i>Net Zero in Government Operations Strategy</i>
NHMRC	National Health and Medical Research Council
NISDRG	National Intelligence and Security Discovery Research Grants
NSSTC	National Security Science and Technology Centre
NSW	New South Wales
NT	Northern Territory
O	
ONI	Office of National Intelligence
P	
PBS	<i>ARC Portfolio Budget Statements 2025–26</i>
PGPA Act	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013</i>
PGPA Rule	<i>Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014</i>
PhD	Doctor of Philosophy
PID	Persistent identifiers
Program 1.1	Discovery – Research and Research Training
Program 1.2	Linkage – Cross-sector research partnerships
Program 1.3	Excellence in Research for Australia
Q	
QLD	Queensland
R	
RGS	Research Grants Services
RIC	Research Insights Capability
RIRC	Research Integrity Review Committee
RMS	Research Management System
ROPE	Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence

S	
SA	South Australia
SAC	Selection Advisory Committee
SES	Senior Executive Service
SIPEX	Sea Ice Physics and Ecosystems eXperiment
SME	Small and Medium Enterprises
SRI	Special Research Initiatives
Statements	<i>ARC Annual Performance Statements 2025–26</i>
STEM	Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics
T	
TAS	Tasmania
THRIVE	ARC Training Centre for Advanced Building Systems Against Airborne Infection Transmission
Treasury	Australian Government lead economic adviser
V	
VIC	Victoria
W	
WA	Western Australia
WCAG	Web Content Accessibility Guidelines
WHS	Work Health and Safety
WHS Act	<i>Work Health and Safety Act 2011</i>
Working for Women	The Australian Government's <i>Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality</i>

6.3 Glossary

Administered expenditure

Funding that is managed by agencies on behalf of the Australian Government.

Administering Organisation

An Eligible Organisation that submits an application for grant funds and is responsible for the administration of grant funds under a Grant Agreement.

Applied research

Applied research is original investigation undertaken in order to acquire new knowledge. It is, however, directed primarily towards a specific, practical aim or objective.

Australian Universities Accord

An Australian Government review of the higher education system, that developed recommendations and performance targets to improve the quality, accessibility, affordability and sustainability of higher education for the long-term benefit of the nation.

Basic research

Basic research is experimental or theoretical work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge of the underlying foundations of phenomena and observable facts, without any particular application or use in view.

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.

Detailed assessors

Detailed assessors are drawn from the ARC Assessor Community and are assigned applications for their specific expertise in a field of research. Detailed assessors provide a written assessment and scores against the scheme selection criteria for each application to which they are assigned. These assessments are central to the considerations of the general assessors in determining which applications to support for funding.

Discovery Program

Funding for investigator-initiated research projects and research fellowships and awards. The Discovery Program comprises the FL, DECRA, IN, 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.

Engagement and Impact assessment

An assessment of researchers' engagement with end-users, and how universities are translating their research into economic, social, environmental, cultural and other impacts.

Excellence in Research for Australia

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.

Ex-officio

A person who is a member of a committee because they hold another office or position.

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.

General assessors

General assessors are commonly distinguished academic researchers drawn from the ARC College of Experts, and comprise the Selection Advisory Committee (SAC) of each grant scheme round. For some grant schemes the SAC will also include members from end-user communities such as industry specialists.

Each application has a lead general assessor who is typically close to the academic field of the application, and one or more general assessors with supplementary expertise.

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 CE, ITRH, ITTC, LIEF, LASP, LP, SRI, CS, IE, IM and IL schemes.

Mid-career researchers

A researcher with between 5 and 15 years of research experience since the award of a PhD or equivalent qualification at the time of their application.

National Competitive Grants Program

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.

National Science and Research Priorities

The Australian Government's framework for guiding national science and research efforts towards key challenges and opportunities. The Priorities help focus research investment and activity in areas of national importance, while supporting long-term economic, environmental and social outcomes.

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.

Research Office

A business unit within an Eligible Organisation that is responsible for administrative contact with the ARC regarding applications and projects.

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.

6.4 Compliance index: annual reporting requirements

Australian Research Council Act 2001 (ARC Act)

ARC Act Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
65A(a)	Part 5: Appendices (Appendix 3)	Particulars of any directions (by legislative instrument) given by the Minister for Education (Minister) to the Board under section 10 of the ARC Act about the performance of the Board's functions or the exercise of its powers, during the reporting period.	Mandatory	154
65A(b)	Part 5: Appendices (Appendix 3)	Particulars of any directions (not a legislative instrument) given by the Board under section 40B of the ARC Act to the CEO during the reporting period about the performance of the CEO's functions	Mandatory	154
65A(c)	Part 5: Appendices (Appendix 3)	The number of decisions made by the Minister during the reporting period, under each of subsections 47(8), 48(6) and 52(1) of the ARC Act, where the Minister considers it relevant to the security, defence, or international relations of Australia (and as otherwise set out at section 47(8) of the ARC Act): to refuse to give funding approval to an organisation ⁴⁵ ; terminate a funding approval in relation to an organisation; and where required, inform the Board that they should not provide funding approval.	Mandatory	154

⁴⁵ See section 48(1) of the ARC Act where the Minister, may on behalf of the Commonwealth and in writing, approve the making of a grant of financial assistance to an organization for a research project in relation to a designated research program.

ARC Act Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
65A(ca)	Part 5: Appendices (Appendix 3)	Information, in respect of each organisation receiving financial assistance under a funding agreement which ended or was terminated during the reporting period, about the nature of the employment of researchers employed by the organisation for the purposes of a research project mentioned in the funding agreement.	Mandatory	155– 166
65A(d)	Part 5: Appendices (Appendix 3)	An outline of any other matters that the Minister, by notice, in writing to the Chair of the Board, requires to be dealt with in the annual report.	Mandatory	154– 155

Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Rule 2014 (PGPA Rule)

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
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 (print only).	Mandatory	iv–v
17AJ(b)	6.5 Alphabetical index	Alphabetical index (print only).	Mandatory	199–210
17AJ(c)	6.2 Abbreviations and acronyms	Glossary of abbreviations and acronyms.	Mandatory	179–182
17AJ(d)	6.4 Compliance index: annual reporting requirements	List of requirements.	Mandatory	186–198
17AJ(e)	Copyright	Details of contact officer.	Mandatory	ii
17AJ(f)	Copyright	Entity's website address.	Mandatory	ii
17AJ(g)	Copyright	Electronic address of report.	Mandatory	ii
17AD(a)	Review by accountable authority			
17AD(a)	Chair's foreword	A review by the accountable authority of the entity.	Mandatory	vi–vii, 14–15
	1.5 Year in review			

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
17AD(b)	Overview of the entity			
17AE(1)(a)(i)	1.1 Purpose 1.2 Legislation	A description of the role and functions of the entity.	Mandatory	2–4
17AE(1)(a)(ii)	1.4 ARC organisational structure	A description of the organisational structure of the entity.	Mandatory	12–13
17AE(1)(a)(iii)	1.1 Purpose	A description of the outcomes and programmes administered by the entity.	Mandatory	3
17AE(1)(a)(iv)	1.1 Purpose	A description of the purposes of the entity as included in corporate plan.	Mandatory	2–3
17AE(1)(aa)(i)	1.3 ARC governance	Name of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority.	Mandatory	7
17AE(1)(aa)(ii)	1.3 ARC governance	Position title of the accountable authority or each member of the accountable authority.	Mandatory	7
17AE(1)(aa)(iii)	1.3 ARC governance	Period as the accountable authority or member of the accountable authority within the reporting period	Mandatory	7
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
17AD(c)	Report on the Performance of the entity			
	Annual performance Statements			
17AD(c)(i); 16F	Part 2: Annual Performance Statements	Annual performance statement in accordance with paragraph 39(1)(b) of the Act and section 16F of the Rule.	Mandatory	31–63

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
17AD(c)(ii)	Report on Financial Performance			
17AF(1)(a)	4.2 Financial performance	A discussion and analysis of the entity's financial performance.	Mandatory	98–101
17AF(1)(b)	4.2 Financial performance	A table summarising the total resources and total payments of the entity.	Mandatory	100–101
17AF(2)	4.2 Financial performance	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	98
17AD(d)	Management and Accountability			
	Corporate Governance			
17AG(2)(a)	3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance	Information on compliance with section 10 (fraud and corruption systems).	Mandatory	70
17AG(2)(b)(i)	Letter of Transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that fraud and corruption risk assessments and fraud and corruption 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 and corruption that meet the specific needs of the entity are in place.	Mandatory	iii

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
17AG(2)(b)(iii)	Letter of Transmittal	A certification by accountable authority that all reasonable measures have been taken to deal appropriately with fraud and corruption relating to the entity.	Mandatory	iii
17AG(2)(c)	1.3 ARC governance 1.4 ARC organisational structure	An outline of structures and processes in place for the entity to implement principles and objectives of corporate governance.	Mandatory	5–13
17AG(2)(d) – (e)	4.2 Financial performance	A statement of significant issues reported to Minister under paragraph 19(1)(e) of the Act that relates to noncompliance with Finance law and action taken to remedy noncompliance.	If applicable, Mandatory	98
Audit Committee				
17AG(2A)(a)	1.3 ARC governance	A direct electronic address of the charter determining the functions of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	9
17AG(2A)(b)	1.3 ARC governance	The name of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	9–10
17AG(2A)(c)	1.3 ARC governance	The qualifications, knowledge, skills or experience of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	9–10
17AG(2A)(d)	1.3 ARC governance	Information about the attendance of each member of the entity's audit committee at committee meetings.	Mandatory	9–10
17AG(2A)(e)	1.3 ARC governance	The remuneration of each member of the entity's audit committee.	Mandatory	9–10
External Scrutiny				
17AG(3)	3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance	Information on the most significant developments in external scrutiny and the entity's response to the scrutiny.	Mandatory	72–73

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
17AG(3)(a)	3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance	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	72
17AG(3)(b)	3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance	Information on any reports on operations of the entity by the AuditorGeneral (other than report under section 43 of the Act), a Parliamentary Committee, or the Commonwealth Ombudsman.	If applicable, Mandatory	72
17AG(3)(c)	3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance	Information on any capability reviews on the entity that were released during the period.	If applicable, Mandatory	72
Management of Human Resources				
17AG(4)(a)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	An assessment of the entity's effectiveness in managing and developing employees to achieve entity objectives.	Mandatory	74–76
17AG(4)(aa)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	Statistics on the entity's employees on an ongoing and nonongoing basis, including the following:(a) statistics on fulltime employees;(b) statistics on parttime employees;(c) statistics on gender(d) statistics on staff location	Mandatory	81–91
17AG(4)(b)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	Statistics on the entity's APS employees on an ongoing and nonongoing basis; including the following: Statistics on staffing classification level; Statistics on fulltime employees; Statistics on parttime employees; Statistics on gender; Statistics on staff location; Statistics on employees who identify as Indigenous.	Mandatory	81–91

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
17AG(4)(c)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	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	76
17AG(4)(c)(i)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	Information on the number of SES and nonSES employees covered by agreements etc identified in paragraph 17AG(4)(c).	Mandatory	76
17AG(4)(c)(ii)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	The salary ranges available for APS employees by classification level.	Mandatory	77
17AG(4)(c)(iii)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	A description of nonsalary benefits provided to employees.	Mandatory	77
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
Assets Management				
17AG(5)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	An assessment of effectiveness of assets management where asset management is a significant part of the entity's activities.	If applicable, mandatory	97
Purchasing				
17AG(6)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	An assessment of entity performance against the <i>Commonwealth Procurement Rules</i> .	Mandatory	94–97

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
Reportable consultancy contracts				
17AG(7)(a)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	A summary statement detailing the number of new reportable consultancy contracts entered into during the period; the total actual expenditure on all such contracts (inclusive of GST); the number of ongoing reportable 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	94–95
17AG(7)(b)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	A statement that <i>"During [reporting period], [specified number] new reportable consultancy contracts were entered into involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]. In addition, [specified number] ongoing reportable consultancy contracts were active during the period, involving total actual expenditure of \$[specified million]"</i> .	Mandatory	94
17AG(7)(c)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	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	95
17AG(7)(d)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	A statement that <i>"Annual reports contain information about actual expenditure on reportable consultancy contracts. Information on the value of reportable consultancy contracts is available on the AusTender website."</i>	Mandatory	94

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
Reportable non-consultancy contracts				
17AG(7A)(a)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	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	95
17AG(7A)(b)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	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	96
17AD(daa)	Additional information about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts			
17AGA	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	Additional information, in accordance with section 17AGA, about organisations receiving amounts under reportable consultancy contracts or reportable non-consultancy contracts.	Mandatory	94–96
Australian National Audit Office Access Clauses				
17AG(8)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	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 AuditorGeneral 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	96

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
Exempt contracts				
17AG(9)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	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	96
Small business				
17AG(10)(a)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	A statement that " <i>[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.</i> "	Mandatory	96
17AG(10)(b)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	An outline of the ways in which the procurement practices of the entity support small and medium enterprises.	Mandatory	96–97
17AG(10)(c)	4.1 Purchasing, contracts and assets	If the entity is considered by the Department administered by the Finance Minister as material in nature—a statement that " <i>[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.</i> "	If applicable, Mandatory	96

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
Financial Statements				
17AD(e)	4.3 Financial Statements	Inclusion of the annual financial statements in accordance with subsection 43(4) of the Act.	Mandatory	102–143
Executive Remuneration				
17AD(da)	3.3 People, capability and remuneration	Information about executive remuneration in accordance with Subdivision C of Division 3A of Part 23 of the Rule.	Mandatory	77–79
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)	5.4 Other mandatory information	If the entity did not conduct advertising campaigns, a statement to that effect.	If applicable, Mandatory	167
17AH(1)(b)	3.1 Research grant administration	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	67
17AH(1)(c)	5.4 Other mandatory information	Outline of mechanisms of disability reporting, including reference to website for further information.	Mandatory	168
17AH(1)(d)	3.2 Risk oversight, controls and compliance	Website reference to where the entity's Information Publication Scheme statement pursuant to Part II of FOI Act can be found.	Mandatory	73

PGPA Rule Reference	Part of report	Description	Requirement	Page/s
17AH(1)(e)	5.4 Other mandatory information	Correction of material errors in previous annual report	If applicable, mandatory	173
17AH(2)	5.4 Other mandatory information	Information required by other legislation	Mandatory	167–173

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