Indigenous Research Capacity Building

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25 March 2014
Indigenous Research Capacity Building – overview of today’s talk

1. Examples of different ARC and Australian Government schemes that are available to support excellent research and research capacity – building
2. Summary of the Objectives of the ARC Discovery Indigenous scheme- including ROPE
3. Important changes to the scheme for funding in 2015 (opened 6 February, closes 26 March)
4. Interesting examples of research funded by the Discovery Indigenous scheme
National Competitive Grants Program

**Discovery Projects**

- Future Fellowships: 16%
- DECRA: 3%
- Discovery Indigenous

- Discovery Projects: 41%

**Linkage Projects**

- Centres of Excellence: 7%
- Co-Funded & SRI
- ITRP
- Linkage Projects: 18%

5 year averages
Indigenous Research Capacity Building – key examples

• ARC Discovery Indigenous scheme (based on the former Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development scheme)

• ARC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Research Network Scheme 2011 – *National Indigenous Research and Knowledges Network* (NIRAKN) – Based at QUT

• Department of Industry, Collaborative Research Network scheme - *Australian Indigenous Research and Researcher Development Project* – based at Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education
Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence

The ARC is committed to ensuring all eligible researchers have fair access to competitive funding through the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP). To this end, we promote and encourage within NCGP those approaches that best recognise research excellence in the context of the diversity of career and life experiences. One key element is that the assessment process takes into account the quality rather than simply the volume or size of the research contribution.
Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous Schemes

- Funded under the ARC’s *National Competitive Grants Program*
- Since its inception, the Discovery Indigenous scheme (based on the former Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development scheme) has provided funding support research programs led by Indigenous Australian Researchers and has built the research capacity of researchers, including early career researchers, and provided support (stipends) for higher degree by research and honours students
- Funds projects where **at least one Chief Investigator** is an Indigenous Australian, who will be the Project Leader
- Funds projects for a **period of three** consecutive years
- Provides a minimum of $30,000 and a maximum of **$500,000** (**previously $300,000**) each year, per Project, provides funding to Administering Organisations to support research programs
Discovery Scheme Objectives

• To support excellent basic and applied research
• To enhance the scale and focus of research in the National Research Priorities
• To expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability
• To encourage research and research training in high-quality research environments
• To enhance international collaboration in research
• To foster the international competitiveness of Australian research.
The Discovery Indigenous scheme aims to:

• develop the research expertise of Indigenous Australian researchers
• support fundamental research and research training by Indigenous Australian researchers as individuals and as teams
• support and retain established Indigenous Australian researchers in Australian higher education institutions
• expand Australia’s knowledge base and research capability
Selection Criteria: Proposals will be assessed and ranked using the following selection criteria:

• a. Project Quality and Innovation 40%
  – Does the research address a significant problem?
  – Is the conceptual/theoretical framework innovative and original?
  – Will the aims, concepts, methods and results advance knowledge?
  – What is the potential for the research to contribute to the Strategic Research Priorities?
Selection Criteria

b. Investigator(s) 35%
   – Research opportunity and performance evidence (ROPE).
   – Time and capacity to undertake the proposed research.
Selection Criteria

c. Research Environment 15%

- Are there strategies for enabling collaboration with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where appropriate (for example, dialogue/collaboration with an Indigenous cultural mentor)?
- Is there an existing or developing, supportive and high quality Research Environment for this Project?
- Are the necessary facilities to complete the Project available?
- Are there adequate strategies to encourage dissemination, commercialisation, if appropriate; and promotion of research outcomes?
Selection Criteria

d. Feasibility and Benefit 10%

– Are the design of the Project and the expertise of the participants sufficient to ensure the Project can be completed within the proposed budget and timeframe?
– Will the completed Project produce innovative economic, environmental, social and/or cultural benefit to the Australian and international community?
– Will the proposed research be cost-effective and value for money?
Scheme Limits?

- Applicants may apply for a maximum of two grants in the Discovery Program, and may hold a maximum of two grants simultaneously.
- There is no limit on the number of grants that an applicant may hold over time.
- A6.2.3 A researcher cannot concurrently hold more than one ARC Fellowship or Award.
The Discovery Indigenous scheme offers Discovery Indigenous Awards (DIAs), which are:

- offered to Lead Chief Investigators (CIs) who are Indigenous Australians;
- only awarded in conjunction with a funded project; and
- only funded for the duration of a project (three years).
Key Changes for Discovery Indigenous for 2015 - $500,000

- Maximum level of funding for a Project is now $500,000 per year for the three-year period of the grant.
- Greater budget flexibility, subject to full justification in the Proposal form, so that previous limits on publication and dissemination costs, web-hosting and development, mobile phone purchase, and workshop and conference funding have been removed.
Key Changes for Discovery Indigenous for 2015 - Research

- **A DIA** candidate must demonstrate how the Project quality would be enhanced by the Award…in terms of the utilisation of the additional research time, such as through field work, archival research or laboratory work. (E7.1.2)

- **CIs** can now be an employee of an eligible organisation for at least 0.2 FTE, and hold a paid position at a museum or herbarium. (E6.2.1c)

- **Research environment**: dialogue/collaboration with a cultural mentor added as another example of possible ‘strategies for enabling collaboration’.
Promoting positive perinatal mental health, parenting, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and resilience in Aboriginal parents in Western Australia (IN120100026)
The University of Western Australia - ARC funding: $735 000
Summary: With community engagement, this three year study will use existing and new data to investigate the relationships between selected indicators of perinatal mental health and positive parenting. It will promote positive perinatal mental health, parenting, cultural and spiritual wellbeing, and resilience in young Aboriginal parents in two sites in Western Australia.
Chief Investigator: Professor Rhonda P Marriott

Indigenous persistence in formal learning (IN120100021)
The University of New South Wales- ARC funding: $693 000
Summary: This project will improve knowledge of the learning experiences of Indigenous students transiting from TAFE to university studies. The results will have significant implications for the ways Indigenous students can be supported in their studies in order to achieve better quality learning experiences and learning outcomes.
Chief Investigator: Professor Nicholas M Nakata
Indigenous women and entrepreneurship in NSW (IN120100053)
University of Technology Sydney - ARC funding: $104 000

Summary: This research will provide an understanding of the experiences of Aboriginal women in Indigenous enterprises (private and social) in urban, regional and rural New South Wales and investigate the economic and social contributions that they and their enterprises make to Aboriginal communities and Australian society.

Chief Investigator: Ms Sonya J Pearce

Reading the Nation: A critical study of Aboriginal/settler representations in the contemporary Australian literary landscape (IN120100009)

The University of New South Wales - ARC funding: $41 000

Summary: This project will map literary representations of Aboriginal Australians by non-Aboriginal authors in the post-Mabo period, and the reciprocal representations by Aboriginal Australians. This is a study of the politics of representation that play out between Aboriginal and white Australians in the contemporary literary landscape.

Chief Investigator: Dr Jeanine A Leane
Questions? Comments?

Thank you!