Australian Research Council

Navigating the maze……
Note.....

• Medical and Dental Research means research and/or training which, in the opinion of the ARC, has a significant focus on clinical medical (including dental) outcomes.

• Eligibility Rulings
ARC Research Centres

• ARC Centres of Excellence (CE)
  – high level collaboration between universities/orgs
  – eg Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security

• ARC Special Research Centres
  – funded on basis of research excellence (9 year)

• Co-funded Centres of Excellence
  – Plants, ICT and Stem Cell
Discovery

• Discovery Indigenous Researchers..
  – salary support to Indigenous researchers to develop research expertise and experience

• Discovery Projects (inc fellowships)
  – funding research undertaken by individual researchers or research teams.

• Federation Fellowships
  – attracting world-class researchers to key positions.
Linkage

- ARC Research Networks
  - collaborative approaches to inter-disciplinary research
- Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities
  - supports cooperative use of large research facilities
- Linkage International
  - encourages networks and collaborations between researchers
- Linkage LASP
  - funds the ‘Learned Academies’ to undertake projects
- Linkage Projects
  - collaborative research and development projects between higher education and other organisations
Special Research Initiatives

• ANZCCART
  – Funds Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching

• AAO Fellowship
  – The ARC and the UK Particle Physics and Astronomy Research Council Fellowship

• Thinking Systems
  – NHMRC and ARC thinking systems research
Discovery Projects Aims

• support excellent fundamental research
• focus research on National Research Priorities
• assist researchers to undertake their research in conditions most conducive to achieving best results
• expand Australia's knowledge base and capability
• foster international competitiveness of research
• encourage research training in high-quality research environments
National Research Priorities

- An environmentally sustainable Australia;
- Promoting and maintaining good health;
- Frontier technologies for building and transforming Australian industries;
- Safeguarding Australia.
- Are there others?....
Linkage Projects Aims

• long-term strategic research alliances - higher education and industry
• to apply advanced knowledge to problems and obtain national economic or social benefits
• support collaborative research benefit to regional and rural communities
• foster opportunities for postdoctoral researchers to pursue internationally competitive research in collaboration with industry
• provide industry-oriented research training
• produce a national pool of world-class researchers to meet the needs of Australian industry.
Successful grant writing

• What is the Problem/Question really…?
  – What do we know about it?
  – Where are the gaps in knowledge?
  – Can we demonstrate (evidence) that these gaps exist?
  – Can it be researched?
  – Should it be compartmentalised?
  – Is it linked into other agendas or priorities?
  – Why should anyone care?
  – Write a research outline!
  – Is it a component of your/our research program?
Successful grant writing

• How will it be funded?
  – Patience and longer term planning
  – Matching ideas, approaches and grants
  – Available grants?
  – Research program – research idea listings
  – Aims and objectives of the grant(s)?
  – National research priority areas?
  – Track record? Rock stars!
  – Collaborations – inter disciplinary and cross organisational
  – Planning to link ideas with grant schedules!
  – Research must be business-like!
Successful grant writing

• Organisation
  – Choose your team with care!
  – Why is your team suitable? History, key accomplishments, qualifications and relationships
  – Over time – build your team and learn from your experience
  – Reach agreement early on roles/funding/publications!
  – Make use of established links – community, volunteers, agencies
  – Acknowledge the barriers/difficulties and problems and describe your strategy!
  – Is there a role for post grad/post doc researchers?
  – Is there a project plan?
  – Do you have time to meet internal deadlines and get evidence of support
Successful grant writing

• Keys to success
  – A clear idea and statement of the problem
  – A dispassionate and evidence-based argument
  – Articulating the benefits of the study
  – Having the right team/profile/collaboration
  – A practical and achievable research approach
  – Ethics of the study
  – Knowing the steps that will follow completion – practice change
  – How does the study fit into a program of future research
  – Demonstrable program management skills:
    budget/justification/evaluation/staffing/reporting
Questions....