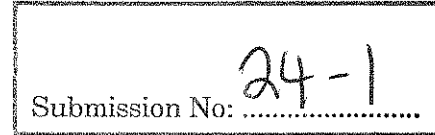




**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**

Postal address | GPO Box 2702  
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
Physical address | 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 8 Brindabella Circuit  
Brindabella Business Park  
Canberra Airport ACT 2609  
Australia  
T + 61 2 6287 6600  
F + 61 2 6287 6601  
www.arc.gov.au

Monday, 20 October 2008



Mr Russell Chafer  
Committee Secretary  
Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation  
PO Box 6021  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Chafer

**Inquiry into research training and research workforce issues in Australian universities**

It has been brought to my attention that the Committee has received a letter about my testimony to the above inquiry at the hearing held on 25 June 2008. In order to assist the Committee, I would like to submit the following additional information.

The testimony which has been questioned (page IS&I 17) concerns the number of proposals received under the *ARC Linkage International* scheme in the social sciences and humanities disciplines. In my testimony I indicated that the ARC gets quite a lot of demand from researchers in the humanities and social sciences under the scheme.

The *Linkage International* scheme encourages collaboration between researchers, research teams and research centres of excellence in Australia and overseas. For funding commencing in 2008 and some years previously the scheme had three components: Awards, Fellowships and Internationally Coordinated Initiatives (ICIs).

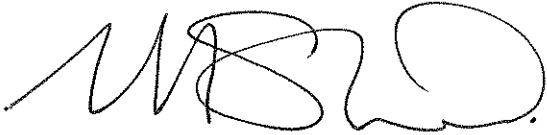
Tables 1 and 2 in Attachment A show the total *Linkage International* proposals received and funded across these three components. In providing testimony to the Committee, I was speaking broadly in terms of demand from researchers in the humanities *and* social sciences which taken together is comparable to the demand from researchers in some of the other discipline clusters. I acknowledge that if taken separately, demand for support under the scheme is weakest from researchers in the humanities and creative arts discipline cluster.

The letter the Committee received also raised the fact that the Awards component of the *Linkage International* scheme has been discontinued. This step was taken, (incidentally, prior to my arrival at the ARC), after consultation with the research sector. Support provided under the Awards component (that is, for international travel and living expenses associated with international collaboration) was subsequently incorporated within the *Discovery Projects* scheme. The *Discovery Projects funding rules for funding commencing in 2009* were amended accordingly.

Additional information about the individual components of the *Linkage International* scheme is provided at Attachment B.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSL', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Margaret Sheil  
Chief Executive Officer

cc. Mr Mark Paterson, Secretary, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research.

**LINKAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHEME  
TOTAL NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED AND FUNDED**

**Table 1: Linkage International proposals received**

Discipline cluster	Submit year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Proposals</b>							
BSB	9	10	18	14	43	30	41
EE	29	21	44	47	58	55	39
HCA	2	6	8	9	14	15	16
MIC	10	17	26	18	48	52	33
PE	22	36	52	32	78	70	61
SBE	9	11	19	13	34	57	62
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>133</b>	<b>275</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>252</b>

**Table 2: Linkage International funded proposals**

Discipline cluster	Submit year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Funded proposals</b>							
BSB	7	7	9	7	11	14	13
EE	27	19	26	25	18	16	8
HCA	2	4	5	4	6	6	3
MIC	9	14	14	11	9	7	9
PE	17	32	31	19	24	22	23
SBE	6	9	10	6	7	12	13
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>69</b>

Notes

- (1) Total includes proposals received and funded under the Awards, Fellowships and Social Sciences ICI
- (2) Where:
- BSB: Biological Sciences and Biotechnology  
 EE: Engineering and Environmental Science  
 HCA: Humanities and Creative Arts  
 MIC: Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences  
 PCG: Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience  
 SBE: Social, Behavioural and Economics Sciences

**LINKAGE INTERNATIONAL SCHEME  
NUMBER OF PROPOSALS RECEIVED AND FUNDED BY COMPONENT SCHEME**

**Linkage International Awards**

Awards assisted Australia-based researchers to participate in joint projects with overseas researchers, establish new collaborations, strengthen ongoing collaborations and provide international research experience. The Awards support collaboration with researchers in any country or countries through the provision of funding for travel, living expenses and consumables related to the collaboration.

Discipline cluster	Submit year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Proposals Received</b>							
BSB	5	9	14	9	27	18	24
EE	24	15	40	31	46	36	28
HCA	2	5	6	6	12	7	3
MIC	10	12	22	12	33	43	22
PE	11	27	45	19	52	45	36
SBE	7	11	17	10	26	25	21
TOTAL	59	79	144	87	196	174	134
<b>Funded proposals</b>							
BSB	5	7	8	5	7	8	8
EE	23	13	24	19	14	10	6
HCA	2	3	4	2	5	3	0
MIC	9	11	13	8	6	7	6
PE	11	26	27	14	18	17	14
SBE	6	9	9	5	5	6	6
TOTAL	56	69	85	53	55	51	40

**Linkage International Fellowships**

International Fellowships provide opportunities for researchers to broaden their research experience and develop networks with international colleagues. The Fellowships are available for Australian researchers to work overseas and for international researchers to work in Australia for periods of up to 12 months. The Fellowships provide direct funding to researchers through stipend support.

Discipline cluster	Submit year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Proposals Received</b>							
BSB	4	1	4	5	16	12	17
EE	5	6	4	16	12	19	11
HCA	0	1	2	3	2	6	5
MIC	0	5	4	6	15	9	11
PE	11	9	7	13	26	25	25
SBE	2	0	2	3	8	9	7
TOTAL	22	22	23	46	79	80	76
<b>Funded proposals</b>							
BSB	2	0	1	2	4	6	5
EE	4	6	2	6	4	6	2
HCA	0	1	1	2	1	3	3
MIC	0	3	1	3	3	0	3
PE	6	6	4	5	6	5	9
SBE	0	0	1	1	2	2	0
TOTAL	12	16	10	19	20	22	22

## Linkage International Internationally Coordinated Initiative (Social Sciences)

Internationally Coordinated Initiatives (ICIs) fund collaborative projects in targeted research areas in partnership with overseas funding agencies. The selection and assessment of ICI proposals is coordinated with the participating agencies.

The ARC currently has an agreement in place to conduct an ICI in social sciences collaboration with the UK Economic and Social Research Council. As the name indicates, this ICI is directed specifically towards funding collaborative projects in the social sciences (including the fields of economics, economic and social history, political science, socio-legal studies, education, psychology, cognitive studies, linguistics, management and business studies, human geography, environmental planning, international studies, area and development studies, social statistics, demography, social science computing, sociology, social anthropology, social policy and social work).

Discipline cluster	Submit year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Proposals Received</b>							
HCA						2	8
SBE						23	34
TOTAL	na	na	na	na	na	25	42
<b>Funded proposals</b>							
HCA						0	0
SBE						4	7
TOTAL	na	na	na	na	na	4	7

### Notes

- (1) Where:
- BSB: Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
  - EE: Engineering and Environmental Science
  - HCA: Humanities and Creative Arts
  - MIC: Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences
  - PCG: Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience
  - SBE: Social, Behavioural and Economics Sciences