Australian Research Council
Applications and Budgets

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A little about ARC funding

- One of the national competitive grant schemes that funds our research
- A lottery with a relatively low probability of success (Discovery 20%)
- Can be invaluable source of funds – especially in leveraging industry support via the Linkage Project scheme
- Can provide crucial infrastructure funding as well through its infrastructure schemes
- Beware that the ARC has an annoying habit of not fully funding projects
- RMIT loses money on ARC projects
What do you want?

- You have a research project that you want the ARC to fund but what do you require to conduct the project?
  - Time
  - People – Research Fellows, Associates, Assistants, Students
  - Equipment
  - Data
  - Maintenance
  - Travel
  - Conferences
Will the ARC fund it?

• Personnel
  – **YES** for Research Fellows, Associates, Assistants, Students (APA, APAI), Post-Doc’s (APD, APDI)
  – **NO** for Chief or Partner Investigators
    – Exceptions: Teaching Relief or Linkage Industry Fellowships

• **YES** for Equipment, Maintenance, Travel

• Also rules out:
  – Capital works and general infrastructure, Teaching and Teaching Relief(?), Sabbaticals and associated expenses, Most student fees, Publication costs
Will the ARC fund it?

• ARC Rules out continued …
  – Production of teaching materials
  – Compilation of data – unless integral to the project?!
  – Development of research aids and tools including software – unless integral to the project?!
  – “Basic Facilities” – offices, labs, workshop services, library collection, reference materials, abstracting, computers and computing facilities

• For Linkage Projects the ARC has clear guidelines on what the partner organisation(s) need to bring to the table
What does this mean?

• Easiest to get people

• Computers need to be “high performance”, Software needs to be “non-standard”

• An excellent source of scholarships for PhDs
  – In fact PhD scholarships, especially APAI, can be great ways to fully fund a research student

• However, be careful that you manage your project well and satisfy all the (additional) reporting requirements
  – You cannot just take the money and run …
Conclusions

• Consider the ARC as a source for supporting your research projects and PhD students attached to them, but
  – Know what you can ask for
  – Make a solid, compelling case for what you ask for
  – Ensure that the cash and in kind contributions of your partner organisation(s) are well integrated into the project

• Remember the potential funding gaps

• Remember the reporting requirements and accountabilities