

2006 ARC & NHMRC Outcomes



The UNIVERSITY
of NEWCASTLE
AUSTRALIA

Outcomes of applications to the Australian Research Council (ARC) and National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) for funding commencing 2007 were announced this month. The outstanding results of our researchers further strengthened the position of University of Newcastle as a leading research institution. The combined results of both funding bodies ranks the University of Newcastle at 9th compared with other Australian universities. In 2006 the gap between the University of Newcastle and the 10th ranked University was \$1.5M. This gap has now increased to \$7M.

Our 2007 NHMRC Project Grant funding was particularly successful, with the University being awarded over \$9M. This ranks the University of Newcastle 8th compared to other Institutions (Universities and Medical Research Institutes). Prof Jim Denham was awarded \$2.4M for trials involving innovative new ways to treat one of the biggest killers of Australian men, prostate cancer.

Our success rate for 2007 Discovery Projects was 22%, above the national success rate of 20%. Over \$9M was awarded to the University. Researchers in the Faculty of Engineering and Built Environment were particularly successful obtaining 17 projects, with a 35% success rate. The two ARC Discovery Indigenous Researcher applications submitted were successful.

Researchers from each of our Priority Research Centres have been successful in ARC and NHMRC funding.

A full list of successful University of Newcastle grants can be found on the following web sites:

ARC: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/arc-outcomes.html>

NHMRC: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/nhmrc2007outcomes.html>

EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

Early Career Researcher Workshops

'Applying for an ARC Discovery Project/ Indigenous Researchers Development grant'

Wednesday 15th November, 10-1.30 pm, HB13 Hunter Building
Research Office contact, Jodie Ryan on (ext. 17188)
or Jodie.Ryan@newcastle.edu.au

Applying for an NHMRC Project Grant workshop

Tuesday 21st November, 10-2pm, Life Sciences Lecture Theatre
Research Office contact Jennifer Saunders on (ext. 16482)
or Jennifer.Saunders@newcastle.edu.au

Captivating the Public & Granting Body with the Research Message

Venue: Life Sciences Lecture Theatre
Time: 2-3.30pm (afternoon included)
Who: Nigel Harding, Director, Information and Communication, NHMRC

Nigel will present an insider view to writing media release and research proposals/reports to captivate lay audiences. It is recommended that researchers for all fields attend as his presentation will be informative for all researchers not just those applying for NHMRC funds.

Research Office contact: Jennifer Saunders (ext. 16482)



What's happening in Research?

2007 RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP SCHEME – CLOSING DATE 30 OCTOBER 2006

The University of Newcastle Research Fellowship Scheme is a new initiative to support outstanding early career researchers seeking to commence an academic/research career. The Scheme provides appointments of up to 5 years duration. Applicants must have a PhD or equivalent Doctoral qualification awarded no earlier than 1 January 2002. The application form is to be completed and submitted with all required attachments to Research Services, The University of Newcastle by October 30, 2006. The application form and related information is available from: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/fellowships.html>

Animal Ethics - The University has agreements with several other institutions regarding their use of the University of Newcastle Animal Care and Ethics Committee (ACEC). Research Services provides regular assistance to these institutions with respect to their applications for accreditation as an animal research establishment to NSW Department of Primary Industries. These agreements are currently undergoing a review.

Several months ago, Research Services initiated a system of email notification of the outcome of applications to the ACEC. This system includes the following: The email is flagged as "high priority"; routine notifications are sent by Research Services staff rather than the Animal Welfare Officer; the email subject line includes "ACEC application" and the project number; the email to the Chief Investigator is copied to the named Alternate Chief Investigator as well as Animal Services Unit staff and other relevant people. Appropriate modification of any automatic email filtering is recommended to ensure that these notifications are not accidentally missed.

Grants - The Research Office strives to provide an efficient and flexible service to support our researchers. As part of this flexibility we acknowledge that it may be necessary for researchers to have access to some of their research funds prior to obtaining the Ethics/Safety approvals required under legislation. For example, early release of funds can be granted (as long as this is not excluded by the granting body), to enable the payment of Fellowships and Scholarships. To obtain an early release of funds the chief investigator should email the manager Research Office outlining the circumstances and undertaking that no research work requiring ethics/safety approval will be undertaken until the approvals have been granted.

Data Management Unit – We have recently completed a benchmarking exercise with the IRU-A group plus the Universities of Adelaide, Tasmania and Wollongong. Summary data is available on the Research Services website:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/statistics/researchstatistics.html>

A report from the RQF Development Advisory Group working party on Research Impact has been published and is available from:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/rqf/rqflatestdevelopments.html>

Some of the main changes recommended by the Impact working group are to treat impact as a group achievement than rather than assessing individuals' effort and to use case studies to support claims of research impact.

Human Ethics - In reviewing and approving human research the University, through its Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC), has to comply with the requirements of the *National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans*. One such requirement is that the conduct of approved research is monitored to ensure compliance with the research protocol approved by the HREC. The minimum monitoring mechanism is an annual report from the principal researcher or project supervisor. Therefore, it is really important that when researchers receive a report form it is completed and returned by the due date otherwise the University cannot comply with the *National Statement*. Non compliance can have serious ramifications for the University. As part of the new human research ethics processes the report form will be online eventually. Meanwhile it is a simple, mostly tick box, green paper form. If you receive one please help us by completing and returning it promptly. For those who do, thank you.

Statistics Corner (January – October 2006)

Human Ethics	Sep	YTD	Animal Ethics	Sep	YTD	Grants	Sep	YTD
Human Ethics Initial Applications Processed	24	117	Animal Ethics Initial Applications Processed	Meeting on 22/9/06 was postponed to 6/10/06	29	External grant applications processed	22	398
Human Ethics Project Variation Applications	10	113	Animal Ethics Variation Applications Processed		55	External grant awards processed	13	158
Human Ethics Approval Renewal Applications	0	9	Animal Ethics Variation Applications (Personnel) Processed		64	Value of external grant awards processed	\$1M	\$18.6M
Human Ethics Registration of HNEH approvals	14	43	Animal Ethics Application Renewals Processed		68			