



# ARC Discovery Indigenous (IN22)

## Information Sheet

### Overview

The *Discovery Indigenous* scheme supports research projects led by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher.

The objectives of the *Discovery Indigenous* scheme are to:

- a) support excellent basic and applied research and research training by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers as individuals and as teams;
- b) support national and international research collaboration;
- c) enhance the scale and focus of research in Australian Government priority areas; and
- d) support and retain established Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers in higher education institutions.

To be eligible the first named Chief Investigator **or** the DAATSIA candidate must be an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researcher. Applications may include one or more Chief Investigators and/or Partner Investigators. Chief Investigators and DAATSIA must not undertake a Higher Degree by Research during the ARC funded project period.

### ARC Assessment criteria

- Investigator(s)/Capability 35%
- Project Quality and innovation 40%
- Benefit 15%
- Feasibility 10%

### ARC Funding

- A *Discovery Indigenous* may request funding for up to five consecutive years.
- Funding for projects ranges between \$30,000 and \$500,000 pa.
- A project may include a Discovery Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Award (DAATSIA), which provides salary support (fellowship) for an eligible Indigenous Australian researcher. The \$500,000 pa max. level of funding includes the DAATSIA.
- DAATSIA salary funding may be requested at one of five salary levels which must be either equivalent to or higher than the salary level (including salary-related on-costs) of the applicant at the closing date (table 1).
- Teaching relief for CIs up to \$50,000 per CI per year (excluding DAATSIA)
- Up to two HDR stipends at a rate of \$28,106 pa
- for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.
- Travel costs up to \$50,000 over the project. Field work or carer's travel costs are not included in this \$50,000 limit.

Table 1: Salary levels for DAATSIA based on 2020 levels (ARC will index annually)

DAATSIA salary levels	Total	UON equivalent salary (30/9/21)
DAATSIA level 1 (1.0FTE)	\$106,195 including 30% on-costs	Level A steps 1- 3
DAATSIA level 2 (1.0FTE)	\$124,935 including 30% on-costs	Level A4-7
DAATSIA level 3 (1.0FTE)	\$162,415 including 30% on-costs	Level A8-Level B6
DAATSIA level 4 (1.0FTE)	\$187,406 including 30% on-costs	Level C1-5
DAATSIA level 5 (1.0FTE)	\$224,885 including 30% on-costs	Level C6-D4

## National outcome data

Round	applications	awards	Success rate (%)	Applications with DAATSIA		
				applications	awards	Success rate (%)
2017	31	11	35%	15	4	27%
2018	38	13	34%	12	4	33%
2019	31	12	39%	11	4	36%
2020	29	7	24%	12	4	33%
2021	24	9	37.5%	10	3	30%

## Important dates

	Date
ARC proposals open in RMS	Wednesday 25 November 2020
UON Eligibility and Compliance check period	Thursday 18 February to Wednesday 3 March 2021
<b>UON deadline for final application</b>	<b>9:00am Wednesday 10 March 2021</b>
ARC submission deadline	5:00pm Wednesday 17 March 2021

### For further information please contact:

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## **Examples of successful 2020 proposals**

**Investigator(s):** Associate Professor Michael-Shawn Fletcher; Dr Simon Connor

**Project Description:** Has it always burned so hot? Fuel and fire in southeast Australian forests. Indigenous cultural burning has been raised as a way of mitigating against climate-driven catastrophic bushfires in southeast Australian forests. It is argued that returning an Indigenous style fire regime will keep landscape fuel loads low, thus reducing the frequency and intensity of bushfires and mitigating against large catastrophic bushfires. While based on enormous reservoirs of traditional fire knowledge in Indigenous communities, this assertion needs empirical testing within these highly flammable forests. This project aims to empirically test how fuel loads, fuel type, fire frequency and fire intensity have changed over the past 500 years in southeast Australian forests, spanning the period of indigenous to British management.

**Funding:** \$454,044

**Primary Field of Research:** Physical Geography and Environmental Geoscience

**University:** The University of Melbourne

**Investigator(s):** Associate Professor Chelsea Bond; Dr Lisa Whop; Professor Mark Brough; Dr Bryan Mukandi; Dr Alissa Macoun

**Project Description:** Building An Indigenist Health Humanities Collective. This proposal aims to develop Indigenist Health Humanities as a new and innovative field of inquiry, building an intellectual collective capable of bridging the knowledge gap that hinders current efforts to close the gap in Indigenous health inequality. Bringing together health and the humanities through the particularity of Indigenous scholarship, a deeper understanding of the human experience of health will be developed alongside a greater understanding of the enablers to building a transdisciplinary collective of Indigenous health researchers. The potential benefits include a more sustainable, relational and ethical approach to advancing new knowledge, advancing research careers and advancing health outcomes for Indigenous people.

**Funding:** \$1,776,000

**Primary Field of Research:** Information Systems

**University:** The University of Queensland

**Investigator(s):** Adjunct Professor Dale Chapman; Professor Melissa Fitzgerald; Professor Susanne Schmidt; Professor Bronwyn Fredericks; Professor Kim Bryceson; Dr Robyn Cave; Professor Helen Ross

**Project Description:** A Deadly Solution: Towards an Indigenous-led bush food industry. Native bushfood and ornamental plants are a significant part of Indigenous biocultural heritage, yet few products are marketed by Indigenous businesses. This research aims to enable Indigenous businesses from bushfoods and native ornamental plants endemic to the Custodial Lands of four Traditional Owner partners. The Project will investigate new technologies for horticultural and food products, product traceability, and

transparent and secure information flows. The expected project outcomes are: bushfood and ornamental plants developed for innovative value chains and business tools. Key expected benefits are: sustainable, profitable Indigenous industries, and revitalisation of Traditional Knowledge and Indigenous biocultural heritage.

**Funding:** \$1,565,000

**Field of Research:** Environmental Science and Management

**University:** The University of Queensland

**Investigator(s):** Dr BJ Newton; Dr Kyllie Cripps; Dr Kathleen Falster

**Project Description:** Aboriginal child restoration from out-of-home care: pathways for success. The soaring rates of Indigenous children living in out-of-home care requires an urgent response. This research aims to considerably advance the knowledge regarding child restoration by investigating the lived experiences and outcomes of Aboriginal parents whose children have been restored from care. The project intends to identify successful child restoration initiatives and produce an empirical roadmap for navigating service systems with the goal of restoration. The project expects to make a substantial contribution to this largely neglected research area that will benefit birth parents and families, communities, practitioners, policy makers and academics. In doing so, it aspires to reduce the prevalence of Aboriginal children in care.

**Funding:** \$427,685

**Field of Research:** Social Work

**University:** The University of New South Wales

**Investigator(s):** Professor Maggie Walter

**Project Description:** Indigenous Lifecourse Research, Data Governance and Capacity Building . This project aims to contribute to rectifying 3 significant gaps in Indigenous research in relation to data; a lack of Indigenous lifecourse research to inform policy development; a lack of Indigenous governance of data; and a broader lack of Indigenous statistical literacy and capability. This project expects to address these gaps: by initiating an Indigenous lifecourse research agenda, using existing datasets; by being the first project to model the application of Indigenous data governance to existing data resources; and by delivering a modularised Indigenous Statistics Course, the first of its kind in Australia, plus a set of statistical literacy workshops to Indigenous organisations to meet Indigenous determined data needs.

**Funding:** \$415,027

**Field of Research:** Other Studies in Human Society

**University:** The University of Tasmania

## **Full ARC Discovery Indigenous Assessment Criteria**

### Investigator(s)/Capability 35%:

- Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE);
- time and capacity to undertake the research;
- evidence of experience in research training, mentoring and supervision (where appropriate); and
- the capability of the investigator or team to build collaborations both within Australia and internationally.

### Project quality and innovation 40%

- contribution to an important gap in knowledge or significant problem;
- novelty/originality and innovation of the proposed research (including any new methods, technologies, theories or ideas that will be developed);
- clarity of the hypothesis, theories and research questions;
- cohesiveness of the project design and implementation plan (including the appropriateness of the aim, conceptual framework, method, data and/or analyses);
- extent to which the research has the potential to enhance international collaboration; and
- enhancement of project quality by DAATSIA.

### Benefit 15%

- new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research;
- economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities; and
- potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's National Science and Research Priorities and other priorities identified by Government.

### Feasibility 10%

- cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money;
- quality of the environment for the DAATSIA candidate and their project, and for HDR students where appropriate;
- availability of the necessary facilities to complete the project; and
- how the design of the project and the expertise of the participants is sufficient to ensure that it can be completed within the proposed budget and timeframe.

### If the project involves Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research describe:

- the strategies for enabling collaboration with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where appropriate (for example, dialogue/collaboration with an Indigenous cultural mentor); and
- any existing or developing, supportive and high quality research communities