

## **EXPLANATORY STATEMENT**

Funding Rules made under section 60 of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001 Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)*

Issued by the authority of the Minister for Education

Subject: *Australian Research Council Act 2001–Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)*

### **Authority**

Section 60 of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (the Act) provides that the Minister must approve ARC funding rules.

### **Purpose and effect**

These Funding Rules relate to the *Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)* which is under the ARC's *National Competitive Grants Programme*. The Discovery Programme supports the growth of Australia's research and innovation capacity, which generates new knowledge resulting in the development of new technologies, products and ideas, the creation of jobs, economic growth and an enhanced quality of life in Australia.

In accordance with subsection 59 (2) of the Act, the *Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)*:

- (a) the eligibility criteria to be met in order for a proposal to be approved for financial assistance (including criteria relating to the kinds of organisation that may receive assistance and the kinds of research programme in respect of which assistance may be provided);
- (b) how to apply for financial assistance;
- (c) the assessment process for deciding which proposals will be recommended for approval;
- (d) the ways in which, and circumstances in which, a funding approval may be varied; and
- (e) any additional accountability requirements that the ARC thinks desirable.

In accordance with subsection 59 (4) of the Act, the *Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)* take account of, and are consistent with:

- (a) the funding cap for the year, or each of the years, to which the rules apply; and
- (b) the funding split determination for the year, or each of the years, to which the rules apply.

The *Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)* were approved by the Minister for Education and Training, the Hon Christopher Pyne, on 28 August 2015. No amendments have been made.

### **Documents incorporated by reference**

The following documents are incorporated by reference:

- *NHMRC/ARC/UA Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (2007);
- *NHMRC/ARC/UA National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Human Research* (2007, updated 2015);
- *NHMRC Values and Ethics: Guidelines for Ethical Conduct in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Research* (2003);
- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies *Guidelines for Ethical Research in Australian Indigenous Studies* (2012);
- *Australia Council for the Arts Indigenous Cultural Protocols for Producing Indigenous Music, Writing, Visual Arts, Media Arts and Performing Arts* (2007)
- *Australian Code for the care and use of animals for scientific purposes* (2013) endorsed by the NHMRC, the ARC, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation and UA; and
- *National Principles of Intellectual Property Management for Publicly Funded Research*, available from ([www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au)).

## Commencement

The *Funding Rules for schemes under the Discovery Programme (2015 Edition)* shall take effect upon registration on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

### The provisions include:

*Part A* – Provides general rules for the schemes under the *Discovery Programme* which includes;

- Name of Funding Rules
- Commencement
- Definitions
- Introduction
- Funding
- General Eligibility Requirements
- Submission of proposals
- Selection and approval process
- Appeals Process
- Reporting Requirements
- Fundamental principles of conducting research
- Eligible Organisations

*Part B* – Provides scheme specific rules for *Discovery Programme* which includes;

- Interpretation
- Additional Definitions for Part B
- Objectives
- Selection criteria
- Funding
- Employment of Australian Laureate Fellows
- Roles and Eligibility
- Kathleen Fitzpatrick and Georgina Sweet Australian Laureate Fellowship
- Proposals
- Salary Support