2010 Review of the Australian Competitive Grants Register

The department has finalised the review of the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR).

The review was undertaken with the support of the Higher Education Data Advisory Committee (HERDAC). An Advisory Committee, which comprised of members of the higher education sector was established to provide input and guidance to the evaluation. The committee consisted of representatives from Group of Eight, the Australian Technology Network of Universities, the Innovation Research Universities and the Non-Aligned Universities.

Terms of Reference

The review of the ACGR will:

- Analyse the current ACGR and its alignment with the policy intent of research block grants
- Examine current selection and assessment criteria and related procedures
- Identify opportunities to improve the administration of the current register ensuring that any suggested changes to the administrative arrangements are consistent with the policy intent of research block grants

Changes from 2011

As a result of the review, changes have been made in consultation, and with the support of the higher education sector. These changes will be applied to the ACGR from 2011.

Scheme managers are now required to provide specific supporting information for selection criterion 1, 2, 3 and 9.

- Please note changes to selection criterion 9. In particular the budget threshold for all eligible schemes (other than those administered by the ARC, NHMRC and Rural R&D schemes) is now $1 million or more per annum.

Additionally, changes to the administrative process include:

- Multiple year listing (up to a maximum of 5 years)
- the listing of lapsed schemes while funding is still being dispersed to universities
- the draft ACGR to be circulated to HEPS prior to finalisation to allow any omitted schemes to be identified and encouraged to apply
- that the ACGR lists schemes prospectively (rather than retrospectively).

Contact

Any questions or comments regarding the 2010 Review of the ACGR can be emailed through to: RBGrants@industry.gov.au with the subject line ‘2010 Review of the ACGR’.