EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Funding Rules made under section 60 of the Australian Research Council Act 2001

Federation Fellowship Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2007

Issued by the authority of the Minister for Education, Science and Training

Subject: Australian Research Council Act 2001
Federation Fellowship Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2007

Authority
Section 60 of the Australian Research Council Act 2001 (the Act) provides that the Minister for Education, Science and Training must approve ARC funding rules.

Purpose and effect
Federation Fellowships is a scheme funded under the Australian Research Council’s National Competitive Grants Program. The scheme reflects the Australian Research Council’s commitment to support excellence in research by attracting world-class researchers to key positions, and creating new rewards and incentives for the application of their talents in Australia. Fellowships are approved by the Minister for Education, Science and Training.

In accordance with subsection 59 (2) of the Act, the Federation Fellowship Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2007 contain:

(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 program 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 CEO thinks desirable.

In accordance with subsection 59 (2) of the Act, the Federation Fellowship Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2007 rules 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 Federation Fellowship Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2007 were approved by the Minister for Education, Science and Training, the Hon Julie Bishop MP on 31 July 2006. No amendments have been made.

Documents incorporated by reference
The following documents are incorporated by reference:

- The draft Funding Agreement (see subsection 1.1.2), available from (www.arc.gov.au);
- The Joint NHMRC/AVCC Statement and Guidelines on Research Practice (1997)/the NHMRC’s National Statement on Ethical Conduct in Research Involving Humans; and/as applicable, the NHMRC’s other codes on animal research (see subsection 1.4.1.1 of the rules), available from (www.nhmrc.gov.au);
- Federation Fellowships Instructions to Applicants for Funding Commencing in 2007 (see subSection 7.3.3.2), available from (www.arc.gov.au); and
Consultation
On 28 April 2006, the ARC invited comments and feedback from all organisations eligible for ARC funding on funding rules for ARC schemes. Submissions were received by the ARC in late May/early June 2006 from a number of organisations. The ARC considered these submissions and, where appropriate, the funding rules approved by the Minister reflected this feedback.

Commencement
The Federation Fellowship Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2007 commence the day after they are registered on the Federal Register of Legislative Instruments.

Likely impact and effect
These Funding Rules provide the key criteria and requirements for proposals for, and the allocation and administration of, funding under the Federation Fellowships scheme for research projects where funding will commence in 2007.

Explanation of provisions: provision by provision description

Section 1 outlines the objectives of the National Competitive Grants Program and the Federation Fellowships scheme, and the fundamental principles and requirements, including ethics and research practice, non-duplication, conflict of interest, and acknowledging ARC support,

Section 2 outlines changes from last year.

Section 3 deals with the level and duration of funding, types of research supported, areas of investigation/work not supported, restrictions on budget items, and the number of proposals and funded projects allowed.

Section 4 deals with organisational types, roles and eligibility, including eligible organisations.

Section 5 deals with roles and eligibility for Federation Fellows.

Section 6 deals with cross-scheme issues relating to funding, eligibility, researchers from Commonwealth-funded Research Centres, and funding of clinical medical and dental research.

Section 7 deals with the application process including proposals, certification and submission of proposals.

Section 8 deals with the selection and approval process, including selection criteria, assessment and selection procedure and offer of funding.

Section 9 deals with the appeals process.

Section 10 deals with the administration of funding, including the Funding Agreement, varying the Funding Agreement or Funding Approval, and reporting.

Section 11 refers to other relevant matters, including applicable law, confidentiality, project description, intellectual property, incomplete or misleading information, and insurance and liabilities.