



Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025

I, Jason Clare, Minister for Education, make the following instrument.

Dated 27/11/2025

Jason Clare
Minister for Education

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1 Name

This instrument is the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025*.

2 Commencement

This instrument commences the day after this instrument is registered.

3 Authority

This instrument is made under section 238-10 of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*.

4 Schedules

Each instrument that is specified in a Schedule to this instrument is amended or repealed as set out in the applicable items in the Schedule concerned, and any other item in a Schedule to this instrument has effect according to its terms.

Schedule 1—Amendments

Other Grants Guidelines (Research) 2017

1 Paragraph i.v (definition of Category 1)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

Category 1 income means Australian competitive grants R&D income, as reported and certified by a *HEP* through *HERDC* and accepted by *the department*

2 Paragraph i.v (definition of Category 2)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

Category 2 income means other public sector R&D income, as reported and certified by a *HEP* through *HERDC* and *accepted by the department*

3 Paragraph i.v (definition of Category 3)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

Category 3 income means industry and other R&D income, as reported and certified by a *HEP* through *HERDC* and accepted by *the department*

4 Paragraph i.v (definition of Category 4)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

Category 4 income means Cooperative Research Centre R&D income, as reported and certified by a *HEP* through *HERDC* and accepted by *the department*

5 Paragraph i.v (definitions of COVID-19 Supplementary Funding Pool, COVID-19 Supplementary Grant Amount and the department)

Repeal the definitions.

6 Paragraph i.v (definition of Grant Year)

After “means the”, insert “calendar”.

7 Paragraph i.v (definition of HERDC)

Omit “maintained by *the department*”, substitute “, which includes information on the *HEP*’s R&D income, as certified and submitted by the *HEPs* by 30 June each year”.

8 Paragraph i.v (definition of R&D or research)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

R&D or research means Research and Experimental Development as defined in the Frascati Manual 2015 maintained by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, as in force at the time the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025* commenced.

Note: The Frascati Manual 2015 as in force at the time the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025* commenced can be viewed on the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development's website at <<https://doi.org/10.1787/9789264239012-en>>.

9 Paragraph i.v (definition of *RSP Base Grant Amount*)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

RSP Grant Amount is the amount determined under paragraph 1.4.10

10 Paragraph i.v (definition of *RSP Funding Pool*)

Repeal the definition, substitute:

RSP Funding Pool is the total amount of funding for a given *Grant Year* for the *RSP*

Note: The Minister determines the total amount of funding available in a given *Grant Year* for the *RSP*, and in doing so, may take into account whether it is appropriate to determine the *RSP Funding Pool* in a *Grant Year* by indexing the *RSP Funding Pool* amount in the preceding *Grant Year* by an amount (such as an amount determined by the method set out in Part 5-6 of the Act).

11 Paragraph i.v

Insert:

ABS means the Australian Bureau of Statistics as established under the *Australian Bureau of Statistics Act 1975*

Competitive Income means *Category 1 income*

Engagement Income means *Category 2 income*, *Category 3 income* and *Category 4 income*

Merging HEP means a body corporate that was a HEP in a previous *Grant Year* and merged or combined with another body corporate that was also a HEP in a previous *Grant Year*, to form a HEP.

Note: From 2026, the bodies known as the University of Adelaide and the University of South Australia will be examples of merging HEPs, as bodies that were HEPs in 2025 but will cease to be HEPs in 2026, after combining to form Adelaide University.

12 After paragraph i.v

Insert:

i.x APPLICATION, SAVING AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

i.x.i The amendments to paragraph 1.4.40 made by Schedule 1 of the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025* apply in relation to any adjustment of *RSP Grant Amounts* after the commencement of that Schedule, in relation to grants made for *Grant Years* before, on and after the commencement of that Schedule.

i.x.ii The amendments to the *Other Grants Guidelines (Research) 2017* made by the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025*, do not affect the validity of payments or decisions made under the version of the *Other Grants Guidelines (Research) 2017* in force before it was amended by the

Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025, and those decisions are taken to continue to have effect.

i.x.iii Despite the amendments made by the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025*, any conditions that were imposed on a grant in the version of the *Other Grants Guidelines (Research) 2017* in force before it was amended by the *Other Grants (Research) Amendment (Research Support Program) Guidelines 2025*, are taken to continue to apply in respect of a grant made prior to those amendments.

13 Subparagraph 1.3(1)

Omit “a flexible funding stream”, substitute “flexible funding”.

14 Paragraph 1.4.1

Repeal the note in the paragraph.

15 Paragraph 1.4.5

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

1.4.5 How Grant Amounts are Determined

Subject to any adjustments that may be made under paragraph 1.4.40, the *RSP Grant Amount* for a *HEP* for a *Grant Year* is the *HEP’s RSP Grant Amount* calculated in accordance with paragraph 1.4.10, as rounded in accordance with subparagraph 1.4.10(2).

16 Paragraph 1.4.10

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

1.4.10 RSP Grant Amounts

- (1) Subject to subparagraph (2), a *HEP’s RSP Grant Amount* for a *Grant Year* is worked out using the formula:

$$(0.47 \times \text{RSP Funding Pool for the Grant Year} \times \text{Competitive Income Share of the HEP for the Grant Year}) + (0.53 \times \text{RSP Funding Pool for the Grant Year} \times \text{Engagement Income Share of the HEP for the Grant Year})$$

where:

Competitive Income Share of the HEP for the Grant Year means the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph 1.4.15.

Engagement Income Share of the HEP for the Grant Year means the amount calculated in accordance with paragraph 1.4.15.

Note: A *HEP’s RSP Grant Amount* for a *Grant Year* is paid in monthly instalments.

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- (2) If any *HEP's RSP Grant Amount* for a *Grant Year* under subparagraph (1) is an amount consisting of a number of whole dollars and a number of cents, its *RSP Grant Amount* is modified as follows:
- (a) the amount allocated to each *HEP* is rounded down to the nearest whole dollar;
 - (b) calculate the difference in cents between the amount determined for a *HEP* under subparagraph (1) and the amount determined in sub-subparagraph (2)(a) (the *HEP's Remainder*);
 - (c) calculate the sum of all the *HEPs' Remainders* (known as the ***Unallocated Dollars***);
 - (d) rank each *HEP* in descending order based on its *Remainder's* closeness to 100 and one dollar is assigned to each *HEP* in order of ranking until all *Unallocated Dollars* are exhausted; and
 - (e) the *HEP's RSP Grant Amount* is equal to the amount determined in sub-subparagraph (2)(a) and any amount assigned to the *HEP* in sub-subparagraph (2)(d).

17 Paragraph 1.4.15

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

1.4.15 Competitive Income Share and Engagement Income Share

- (1) For the purposes of this paragraph and paragraph 1.6.5, “New HEP”, for a *Grant Year*, means either:
- (a) a body corporate that becomes a *HEP* on 1 January of the *Grant Year*; or
 - (b) a body corporate that became a *HEP* at any time during the previous *Grant Year* (other than 1 January of the previous *Grant Year*).

Example 1: A body corporate becomes a *HEP* on 1 January 2026. Therefore, it is a New HEP for the 2026 *Grant Year*.

Example 2: A body corporate becomes a *HEP* on 1 July 2025. Therefore, it is a New HEP for the 2026 *Grant Year*.

- (2) For the purposes of this paragraph and paragraph 1.6.5, “Merged HEP”, for a *Grant Year*, means a New HEP that is formed from two or more merging HEPs.
- (3) The *Competitive Income Share* of a *HEP* for a *Grant Year* is worked out using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Competitive Income for the HEP}}{\text{Competitive Income for all HEPs}}$$

where:

Competitive Income for the HEP means:

- (a) for a *HEP* that is not a Merged HEP in the *Grant Year* and was not a Merged HEP at any point in the previous three *Grant Years* either:

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- i. the sum of the *Competitive Income* for the *HEP* for the second and third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*; or
 - ii. if no data is available about the *HEP's Competitive Income* for either or both of the calendar years specified in subparagraph (i), the sum of the *Competitive Income* for the *HEP* for the most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available, and the *Competitive Income* for the *HEP* for the second most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available; or
- (b) for a *HEP* that is a Merged *HEP* in the *Grant Year* or was a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, the sum of:
- i. the combined *Competitive Income* for the merging *HEPs* and the Merged *HEP* for the second calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*; and
 - ii. the combined *Competitive Income* for the merging *HEPs* and the Merged *HEP* for the third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*.

Competitive Income for all HEPs means the sum of the *Competitive Income* for each *HEP* (excluding any New *HEPs* that have not satisfied the extra conditions of eligibility in paragraph 1.6.5 for the *Grant Year*), where the *Competitive Income* for each *HEP* is:

- (a) for a *HEP* that is not a Merged *HEP* and was not a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, either:
 - i. the sum of the *Competitive Income* for the *HEP* for the second and third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*; or
 - ii. if no data is available about the *HEP's Competitive Income* for either or both of the calendar years specified in subparagraph (i), the sum of the *Competitive Income* for the *HEP* for the most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available, and the *Competitive Income* for the *HEP* for the second most recent calendar year, preceding the *Grant Year*, for which data is available; or
- (b) for a *HEP* that is a Merged *HEP* in the *Grant Year* or was a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, the sum of the *Competitive Income* for the merging *HEPs* and the Merged *HEP* for the second and third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*.

- (4) The *Engagement Income Share* of a *HEP* for a *Grant Year* is worked out using the formula:

$$\frac{\text{Engagement Income for the HEP}}{\text{Engagement Income for all HEPs}}$$

where:

Engagement Income for the HEP means:

- (a) for a *HEP* that is not a Merged *HEP* in the *Grant Year* and was not a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, either:

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- i. the sum of the *Engagement Income* for the *HEP* for the second and third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*; or
 - ii. if no data is available about the *HEP's Engagement Income* for either or both of the calendar years specified in subparagraph (i), the sum of the *Engagement Income* for the *HEP* for the most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available, and the *Engagement Income* for the *HEP* for the second most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available; or
- (b) for a *HEP* that is a Merged *HEP* in the *Grant Year* or was a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, the sum of:
- i. the combined *Engagement Income* for the merging *HEPs* and the Merged *HEP* for the second calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*; and
 - ii. the combined *Engagement Income* for the merging *HEPs* and the Merged *HEP* for the third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*.

Engagement Income for all HEPs means the sum of the *Engagement Income* for each *HEP* (excluding any New *HEPs* that have not satisfied the extra conditions of eligibility in paragraph 1.6.5 for the *Grant Year*), where the *Engagement Income* for each *HEP* is:

- (a) for a *HEP* that is not a Merged *HEP* and was not a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, either:
- i. the sum of the *Engagement Income* for the *HEP* for the second and third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*; or
 - ii. if no data is available about the *HEP's Engagement Income* for either or both of the calendar years specified in subparagraph (i), the sum of the *Engagement Income* for the *HEP* for the most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available, and the *Engagement Income* for the *HEP* for the second most recent calendar year preceding the *Grant Year* for which data is available; or
- (b) for a *HEP* that is a Merged *HEP* for the *Grant Year* or was a Merged *HEP* at any point in the previous three *Grant Years*, the sum of the *Engagement Income* for the merging *HEPs* and the Merged *HEP* for the second and third calendar year preceding the *Grant Year*.

18 Paragraph 1.4.20

Repeal the paragraph.

19 Paragraph 1.4.25

Repeal the paragraph.

20 Paragraph 1.4.30

Repeal the paragraph.

21 Paragraph 1.4.35

Repeal the paragraph.

22 Paragraph 1.4.40

Repeal the paragraph, substitute:

1.4.40 Adjustments

- (1) If a *HEP* provides incorrect *HERDC* data used to calculate the *HEP*'s *RSP Grant Amount* for a *Grant Year*, the *HEP* must correct the information provided to *the department* ('corrected data'), provide supporting evidence that demonstrates the accuracy of the corrected data, and provide information on what caused the *HEP* to provide incorrect data.

Note: The department may take into account corrected *HERDC* data and supporting evidence provided by a *HEP* on or before 1 September in the year the data was first provided to determine *RSP Grant Amounts*.

- (2) If the *HEP* provides corrected *HERDC* data and supporting evidence on or before 30 June in the first *Grant Year* the data is used, *the department* will only take into account the corrected data to recalculate and adjust *RSP Grant Amounts* under paragraph 1.4.10, if the *RSP Grant Amount* calculated for the *HEP* using the corrected *HERDC* data is less than the *RSP Grant Amount* calculated for the *HEP* using the incorrect *HERDC* data.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt, if the *HEP* provides either the corrected *HERDC* data or supporting evidence after 30 June in the first *Grant Year* the data is used, *the department* will not take into account the corrected data to recalculate and readjust *RSP Grant Amounts* under paragraph 1.4.10.

23 Section 1.5

Repeal the section, substitute:

1.5 Conditions that apply to *RSP* grants

1.5.5 Specified conditions

- (1) A *HEP* must provide biennially to *the department* the latest set of information about higher education *R&D* expenditure that the *HEP* receives from the *ABS*.
- (2) The information specified in subparagraph 1.5.5(1) must be provided to *the department*:
 - (a) in the form provided to the *HEP* by the *ABS*; and
 - (b) within 30 days of the *ABS* providing the information to the *HEP*.

1.5.10 Other conditions

In addition to the conditions specified in paragraph 1.5.5, the Minister may impose conditions that apply to *RSP* grants under subsection 41-25(2) of *the Act*.

24 After section 1.5

Insert:

1.6 Extra conditions of eligibility to receive *RSP* grants

1.6.5 Extra conditions of eligibility for New HEPs

- (1) If a *HEP* is a New HEP that is not a Merged HEP for a *Grant Year*, the *HEP* is first eligible to receive a *RSP* Grant in that *Grant Year* if, by 30 June of the previous calendar year, it reported and certified data through *HERDC*, about the *HEP*'s:
 - (a) *Competitive Income* and *Engagement Income* for the second calendar year preceding that *Grant Year*; and
 - (b) *Competitive Income* and *Engagement Income* for the third calendar year preceding that *Grant Year*.
- (2) If a *HEP* is a New HEP that is not a Merged HEP for a *Grant Year* and does not meet the extra condition of eligibility in subparagraph 1.6.5(1), the *HEP* is first eligible to receive a *RSP* Grant in a subsequent *Grant Year* if, by 30 June of the previous calendar year, it reported, and certified data through *HERDC*, about the *HEP*'s:
 - (a) *Competitive Income* and *Engagement Income* for the second calendar year preceding that *Grant Year*; and
 - (b) *Competitive Income* and *Engagement Income* for the third calendar year preceding that *Grant Year*.
- (3) For the avoidance of doubt:
 - (a) the *HEP* is not eligible to receive a *RSP* Grant for the *Grant Year* preceding the *Grant Year* in relation to which it is a New HEP; and
 - (b) the extra conditions of eligibility specified in subparagraph 1.6.5(1) or 1.6.5(2) do not apply to a New HEP that is a Merged HEP.