ARC Discovery Program Grant Guidelines & Agreement Changes – 2019

Consultation

Feedback from stakeholders was considered in the drafting of the grant guidelines.

Changes have been made in accordance with the Australian Government's Streamlining Government Grants Administration Program (announced in 2015–16) and in response to the Parliamentary inquiry into efficient, effective and coherency of Australian Government funding for research (2018).

In addition to the standard consideration of comments provided throughout the previous year's grant opportunity assessment processes, ahead of the 2019 drafting process a number of changes were proposed to streamline the guidelines, agreements and assessment process through the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) Streamlining Workshop held with members of the Australasian Research Management Society (ARMS) in November 2018. Some of the proposed changes were presented to ARMS members and the ARC College of Experts for further feedback prior to their submission to the Minister for approval.

The ARC also consulted with the ARMS group about the ARC's transition to the Commonwealth standard grant agreement template in July 2019. This consultation provided an opportunity to comment on a draft ARC grant agreement and to ask questions about the new agreement template. Feedback from this group was incorporated in the new grant agreements.

OVERALL CHANGES TO THE 2019 GRANT GUIDELINES

1. **Multi-year guidelines**
    In the past the ARC has revised and issued grant guidelines for each scheme every year. From 2019, we intend to issue the scheme guidelines every second year.

    This is reflected in removing reference to specific dates in the grant guidelines so the document can apply for a number of grant opportunities (scheme rounds).

    Changing the guidelines period provides researchers and research office staff with assurance that the details of each scheme will stay the same for a longer period, meaning longer term planning can be put in place and less time is devoted to the interpretation of ARC grant documentation. It will also provide the ARC with more time to consider policy issues affecting its funding schemes, rather than spending significant time amending wording and formatting.

    Guidelines references: applicants are referred to the ARC website (www.arc.gov.au) for dates for each grant opportunity where relevant in the guidelines. This includes eligibility dates for *Future Fellowships* and *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award* (DECRA) schemes.

2. **Format and streamlining**
    Since the ARC's move to the whole-of-government grant guidelines template in 2018, the ARC has continued to review the format and content of its guidelines with a view to:
    *   standardising presentation across all ARC funding schemes;
    *   increasing alignment with the guidelines of the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) where appropriate; and
    *   ensuring the ARC's grant guidelines are consistent with the whole-of-government grant guidelines.

While no significant changes to the format and content of the guidelines have been made, minor revisions include the following:
- clarifying the eligibility requirements (especially project limits) to ensure that they are as simple as possible;
- changing the layout of the Eligible Organisation list to match NHMRC (guidelines ref: 4.4);
- removing lists of policies, and instead referring applicants to the ARC website for the most up to date information (this is also in line with the NHMRC) (guidelines ref: 10.6-10.8); and
- removing any other unnecessary duplication or repetition.

The ARC's transition to the whole-of-government grant agreement template has required changes to the format and structure of grant agreements. The following formatting changes have been made to the grant agreements:
- information regarding the specific scheme is now at the beginning of the agreement, rather than in schedules at the end of the agreement and scattered throughout the body of the agreement;
- information is now ordered in a more logical way, flowing from the project start through to grant activities, variations and reporting; and
- Execution (standard) Clauses and definitions are now at the end of the agreement.

CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT

3.   Scheme objectives and assessment criteria streamlined and updated
In 2019, the ARC reviewed the assessment criteria for all NCGP funding schemes as part of streamlining activities being undertaken by the agency. The review was undertaken on the basis that clarity and consistency in presentation of the assessment criteria and their sub-elements will help provide clarity for both applicants and assessors. In some instances, the changes made relate specifically to changes made in the application form to streamline the collection of information.

4.   Scheme objectives structure
The scheme objectives and outcomes have been separated to clarify the objectives and expected outcomes of each scheme where:
- objectives are 'the specific result the ARC/Australian Government is trying to achieve within the scheme timeframe and with the available resources'; and
- outcomes are 'the result the ARC/Australian Government hopes to achieve if the objectives are accomplished'.

This approach is consistent with the whole-of-government grant guidelines template and the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC).

5.   Assessment criteria weighting
Assessment criteria weightings have been changed under the *DECRA*, *Future Fellowships* and *Australian Laureate Fellowships* schemes.
Changes to the assessment criteria weightings are aimed at better aligning criteria and weightings with the purpose of the scheme:
- in DECRA and Future Fellowships, increasing the focus on the capability of the researchers involved
- in Australian Laureate Fellowships, maintaining the focus on the capability of the researchers involved and making the proposed benefit more visible. Previously benefit was part of the Project criterion.

Attachment A of this document shows the revised weightings and the details of the changes to Discovery Program assessment criteria.

6. **'Benefit' criterion**

To improve consistency, the 'Benefit' criterion has been included as a separate criterion under all Discovery Program funding schemes. The 'Benefit' criterion reflects an objective of the Discovery Program which is to 'deliver outcomes of benefit to Australia'. To date, 'Benefit' has been presented variously across the schemes—separately (under the *Discovery Projects* scheme), linked to Collaboration (under the DECRA, *Future Fellowships* and *Discovery Indigenous* schemes) and as a sub-element under another high-level criterion (under the *Australian Laureate Fellowships* scheme).

We have included standard wording around benefit across all Discovery Program schemes: "economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits". This criteria is separate from the National Interest Test, which is considered independently as described in Section 8.13-8.14 of the Discovery Program grant guidelines.

7. **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research**

Only including specific elements relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research under the *Discovery Indigenous* scheme has contributed to confusion about the scheme, that is, that one of its primary purposes is to support Indigenous research. The sub-elements relating to the conduct of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research are included under all relevant ARC schemes to ensure that proposals to conduct Indigenous research are framed appropriately (for example, through consultation with relevant communities).

In acknowledging that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers have the same skills as all other researchers, regardless of the career stage, the objective 'Develop the research expertise of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers' has been removed from the *Discovery Indigenous* scheme. This objective has been in place since the scheme's inception and removal was proposed on the basis that it reflects an earlier purpose and the wording could be interpreted as implying that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander researchers have less expertise than other researchers. The *Discovery Projects* scheme does not include a similar phrase, for example, 'develop the research expertise of researchers' and removal has increased consistency across the Discovery Program.

8. **'Investigator' criterion**

The title of the 'Investigator' or 'Candidate' criterion has been changed to 'Investigator/ Capability'. The term 'capability' is considered to more accurately reflect the intent of this criterion. Assessment will be made of the quality of the applicant or team in relation to the research project proposed.

9. **Criterion sub-elements**

Criterion sub-elements were reviewed to ensure consistent description and location of similar elements and use of plain language.

- 'Time and capacity to undertake research' has been removed as a sub-element under 'Investigator' under all Discovery Program fellowship schemes.
- The sub-element 'the extent to which the candidate/team will build collaborations across research organisations' has been moved from the 'Benefit and Collaboration' criterion to the 'Investigator(s)/Capability criterion.
- The sub-element 'cost-effectiveness and its value for money' has been moved from the 'Benefit' criterion to the 'Feasibility' criterion.
- The 'benefit' sub-elements have been made consistent between Discovery Program schemes (to the extent possible).

- The 'project quality and innovation' sub-elements have been made consistent between Discovery Program schemes.
- Uncommon inclusions have been removed from the *Future Fellowships* and *Australian Laureate Fellowships* schemes.
- Consistent wording has been used for often-used phrases.

10. **Request not to assess – removed option to request more than 3 assessors be excluded**
In order to streamline this process, a maximum of three assessors may be requested not to assess an application. Previously more than three assessors could be requested not to assess an application in extraordinary circumstances and only if additional justification was provided. The administrative burden of this process was high. The option was not taken up by many applicants, and many of the requests were already covered by standard conflict of interest processes.

CHANGES TO ELIGIBILITY

11. **Project limits simplified**
ARC Centres of Excellence and Special Research Initiatives Chief Investigators will no longer count towards Discovery Program project limits. Directors on ARC Centres of Excellence and Special Research Initiatives will still count towards Discovery Program project limits.

The wording in this section of the grant guidelines (*What are the limits on the number of applications and projects per named participant?*) has also been revised for clarity.

Further information about NCGP project limits is available on the ARC website.

Guidelines reference: 4.10-4.16 (page 15)

12. **Career Interruption types changed - 'illness' to 'medical condition'**
Under the *Future Fellowships* and *DECRA* schemes, a career interruption may be claimed in order to meet the eligibility time periods. The term 'illness' has been changed to 'medical condition' to broaden the scope of this career interruption reason. This change will be reflected in other ARC policy documents.

Guidelines references: B3.11 (page 40) and C3.11 (pages 47-48)

13. **Removed organisation type 'Host Organisation'**
Removed 'Host Organisation' from the eligible organisation types under *Future Fellowships* and *Discovery Indigenous* schemes.

The uptake under the *Discovery Indigenous* scheme has not been high (there has only ever been one Host Organisation named on a Discovery Indigenous project). The need to encourage collaboration in this way (that is, through identification of host organisations in an application) has decreased over time, and naming the organisation on a project is administratively burdensome on both the administering organisation and the named host organisation. Removing this organisation type does not mean that other organisations cannot still be utilised in this same way for Future Fellowships and Discovery Indigenous projects.

CHANGES TO BUDGET REQUESTS

14. Increased project costs by $10,000 for *DECRA* and *Future Fellowships* schemes
The maximum level of project costs which can be sought under ARC schemes has not changed year on year. Project costs are expected to cover the cost of employing research personnel and their salaries have increased over the years through enterprise bargaining indexation increases. As a result, the proportion of the project costs remaining to support other activities has declined. This is particularly the case for Future Fellowships and DECRA where the project cost limits are low and Higher Degree by Research Students (HDRs) are expected to be funded from these costs. The maximum allowable project costs have not been reviewed since the creation of these schemes. The ARC has committed to review the project cost levels for all schemes every three to five years (rather than on an ad hoc basis).

Guidelines references: 3.2 (pages 11-12), B2 (page 38) and C2 (page 46)

15. Changed budget item limit - Teaching Relief
The limit for teaching relief will now be considered per Chief Investigator (CI) rather than at a project level. *Discovery Indigenous* and *Discovery Projects* schemes allow teaching relief to be requested for up to $50,000 per CI per year. As the limit was previously set by Project rather than CI, CIs participating in a project involving multiple CIs were disadvantaged when requesting teaching relief. This change seeks to rectify this issue.

Guidelines references: D4.1 (page 54) and E4.1 (page 59)

16. Removed budget item - Discovery International Award (DIA)
DIAs were granted as special conditions in the *Discovery Projects* scheme for up to two people per project to fund international return economy class airfares, reasonable local travel, a living allowance and consumables ($20,000, 12 months per award). Removal of this Award was identified as a streamlining initiative, reducing the administrative burden on applicants and internal staff to administer the award (both pre- and post-award). Applicants can continue to seek this funding through multiple budget items in the *Discovery Projects* scheme.

CHANGES TO POLICY IN THE AGREEMENT

17. Start date for projects
The Discovery Program grant agreement will now show a specific date by which the project must start. This date is 12 months after the scheme-specific Grant Commencement Date. This will avoid confusion for Administering Organisations and researchers, and will also introduce a common date for all projects in a grant opportunity.

All scheme dates are listed in the Grant Calendar available on the ARC website.

18. Data Management Plan
All successful applicants for ARC grants will now be required to prepare a data management plan before the project starts. Details on data management were previously required in the application form, this requirement has been removed. The Administering Organisation will be required to retain the data management plan and provide it to the ARC upon request.

19. **Participating Organisation Agreement requirements**
The information in the grant agreement about Participating Organisation Agreements has been reduced, which means that there is now more flexibility for Administering Organisations to determine what level of detail is commensurate with the contribution of each Participating Organisation when preparing Participating Organisation agreements.

20. **Parental leave**
Previous grant agreements differentiated between maternity leave and parental leave for Australian Laureate Fellows, Future Fellows, DECRAs and DAATSIAs. The new grant agreement allows these individuals to access funds for up to 14 weeks paid parental leave per child through a variation, subject to the provisions of the relevant enterprise agreement.

21. **Ethics clearances**
Practices relating to ethical clearances have been brought into line with NHMRC practices, to provide clarity to researchers and Administering Organisations about when they need to have all appropriate ethical clearances in place. A plan for ethical clearances must be in place before the project starts to ensure that clearance is approved before the particular component of the project which requires ethical clearance begins.

22. **Further guidance information on the ARC website**
Detailed information regarding how to submit variations, how to complete reports and other guidance information will now be provided on the ARC website, separate to the agreement.

Refer to https://www.arc.gov.au/grants/grant-administration for further information.

Attachment A – Changes to Discovery Program assessment criteria

Assessment Criteria Weighting

Scheme	Previous		Revised	
DECRA				
	Project quality and innovation	35%	Project quality and innovation	25%
	DECRA candidate	40%	Investigator/Capability	50%
	Feasibility	10%	Feasibility	10%
	Benefit and collaboration	15%	Benefit	15%
Future Fellowships				
	Project quality and innovation	35%	Project quality and innovation	25%
	FT candidate	40%	Investigator/Capability	50%
	Feasibility/Strategic alignment	10%	Feasibility/strategic alignment	10%
	Benefit and collaboration	15%	Benefit	15%
Australian Laureate Fellowships				
	Program of research activity	30%	Project quality and innovation	25%
	Investigator	40%	Investigator/Capability	40%
	Mentoring/capacity building	30%	Mentoring/capacity building	25%
			Benefit	10%
Discovery Projects				
	Project quality and innovation	40%	Project quality and innovation	40%
	Investigators	35%	Investigator(s)/Capability	35%
	Feasibility	10%	Feasibility	10%
	Benefit	15%	Benefit	15%
Discovery Indigenous				
	Project quality and innovation	40%	Project quality and innovation	40%
	Investigator(s)/DAATSIAs	35%	Investigator(s)/Capability	35%
	Feasibility	10%	Feasibility	10%
	Benefit and collaboration	15%	Benefit	15%

Details of changes to assessment criteria

DECRA assessment criteria

Investigator(s)/Capability (50%)
- Describe the:
  - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE), including record of high quality research outputs appropriate to the discipline/s
  - Capability of candidate to build collaborations both within Australia and internationally
  - ~~Time and capacity to undertake the research~~ [removed]

Project quality and innovation (25%)
- Describe the:
  - 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
  - ~~Evidence that the conceptual/theoretical framework is innovative and original~~ [reworded]
  - ~~The potential for the research to contribute to the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities~~ [relocated to Benefit]
  - ~~The extent to which the research project includes aims, concepts, methods and results which will advance knowledge~~ [reworded]
  - ~~The extent to which the research addresses a significant problem;~~ [reworded]

Benefit ~~and Collaboration~~ (15%)
- Describe the potential benefits including the:
  - new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research
  - economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities
  - potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities and other priorities identified by government
  - ~~Cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money.~~ [relocated to Feasibility]
  - ~~The extent to which the DECRA candidate will build collaborations across research organisations and/or industry and/or with other disciplines both within Australia and internationally~~ [relocated to Investigator(s)/Capability]

Feasibility (10%)
- Describe the:
  - cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money
  - feasibility of the research (including contribution of the project's design, participants and resources to the timely completion of the project)
  - supportive environment for the DECRA candidate and their project, and for HDR students where appropriate
  - availability of the necessary facilities to complete the project

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)
  - any existing or developing, supportive and high quality research communities
  - ~~How the project's design, participants and requested budget create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the project~~ [reworded]

Future Fellowships assessment criteria

Investigator/Capability (50%)
- Describe the quality of the candidate as below:
  Future Fellowship Level 1
  - ○ Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) including record of high quality research outputs appropriate to the discipline/s
  - ○ evidence of research training, mentoring and supervision
  - ○ evidence of leadership capability and national research standing
  - ○ capability of the candidate to build collaborations across research organisations, industry and other disciplines both within Australia and internationally
  - ○ ~~capacity and leadership to undertake the research~~ [removed]

  Future Fellowship Level 2
  - ○ Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) including record of high quality research outputs appropriate to the discipline/s
  - ○ evidence of research training, mentoring and supervision
  - ○ evidence of leadership capabilities and national and emerging international research standing
  - ○ capability of the candidate to build collaborations across research organisations, industry and other disciplines both within Australia and internationally
  - ○ ~~capacity and leadership to undertake the research;~~ [removed]

  Future Fellowship Level 3
  - ○ Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) including record of outstanding research outputs appropriate to the discipline/s
  - ○ evidence of experience in initiating and managing large research projects
  - ○ evidence of international research standing
  - ○ evidence of excellence in research training, mentoring and supervision
  - ○ capability of the candidate to build collaborations across research organisations, industry and other disciplines both within Australia and internationally
  - ○ ~~evidence of contribution to national and/or international public policy debates and initiatives.~~ [removed]

Project quality and innovation (25%)
- Describe the:
  - ○ 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
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the project involves interdisciplinary research~~ [removed]
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the research addresses a significant problem~~ [reworded]
  - ○ ~~Evidence that the conceptual/theoretical framework is innovative and original~~ [reworded]
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the research project includes aims, concepts, methods and results which will advance knowledge~~ [reworded]
  - ○ ~~Appropriateness of the design and methods~~ [reworded]
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the project will maximise economic, environmental, social, and/or cultural benefits to Australia~~ [relocated to Benefit]
  - ○ ~~Potential for the research to contribute to the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities~~ [relocated to Benefit]
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the project will push the boundaries of research~~ [reworded]
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the project opens up new research opportunities~~ [reworded]
  - ○ ~~Extent to which the project contributes to public policy formulation and debate~~ [removed]

Benefit ~~and Collaboration~~ (15%)

- Describe the potential benefits including the:
  o new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research
  o economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities
  o potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's National Science and Research priorities and other priorities identified by government
  o ~~How the Future Fellowship candidate will build collaborations across research organisations and/or industry and/or with other disciplines both within Australia and internationally;~~ [relocated to Investigator/Capability]
  o ~~How the host organisations will be utilised in the project;~~ [removed]
  o ~~The cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money~~] [relocated to Feasibility]

Feasibility and strategic alignment (10%)

- Describe the:
  o cost effectiveness of the research and its value for money
  o extent to which the Future Fellowship candidate aligns with and/or complements the core or developing research strengths and staffing profile of Your organisation
  o availability of the necessary facilities to conduct the research
  o resources You will provide to support the Future Fellowship candidate during her/his Future Fellowship
  o capacity within Your organisation to transition the candidate at the end of the Future Fellowship to a continuing position

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

Australian Laureate Fellowships assessment criteria

Investigator/Capability (40%)
- Describe the:
  - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE) including
    - outstanding research outputs and achievements taking into account research opportunity
    - evidence for and/or potential to undertake ground-breaking research
    - leadership ability and plans to build world class research capacity and diverse teams
    - potential to create an enduring legacy
  - extent to which the candidate will build collaborations across research organisations and/or industry and/or with other disciplines both within Australia and internationally
  - ~~Contribution to national and international public policy debates and initiatives~~ [removed]
  - ~~Time and capacity to undertake the research~~ [removed]

Project quality and innovation (25%)
- Describe the:
  - 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
  - extent to which the research will be cost-effective and represents value for money;

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)
  - any existing or developing, supportive and high quality research communities
  - ~~The extent to which the research project is innovative including: (i) the project aims and concepts are original and innovative, representing the leading edge of research in the field; (ii) any new methods, technologies, theories or ideas that will be developed; and (iii) how the research program will enhance innovation in Australia.~~ (reworded)
  - ~~The approach to the research project including: (i) the conceptual framework, design, methods and analyses, demonstrating these are adequately developed, well integrated and appropriate to the aims of the project~~ [reworded]
  - ~~The extent to which the research project is significant and of national benefit including: (i) the research addresses an important problem;~~ **(Project)** ~~(ii) the anticipated outcomes will advance the knowledge base;~~ **(Benefit)** ~~(iii) the project will make a major contribution to public policy formulation and debate;~~ **(Deleted)** ~~(iv) the research maximises economic, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits to Australia;~~ **(Benefit)** ~~(vi) the potential for the research to contribute to the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities~~ [moved to Benefit]

Benefit (10%)
- Describe the potential benefits including the:
  - new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research
  - economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities
  - potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities and other priorities identified by government

Mentoring and capacity building (25%)

- Describe:
  Mentoring, including the extent to which the candidate demonstrates:
  - o exceptional ability to supervise and mentor postdoctoral researchers and other early-mid career researchers
  - o they will be providing a suitable environment for postgraduate students and postdoctoral researchers

  Capacity building, including:
  - o the extent to which the project will build new teams and create world-class research capacity, collaboration and innovation
  - o the extent to which the candidate demonstrates exceptional leadership and the organisational ability to ensure the development of scale and focus in research
  - o evidence of the project's and researcher's potential to attract financial resources to enhance research capacity
  - o the extent to which this research builds new international research collaboration or links between research and industry
  - o ~~an excellent record of successful postgraduate supervision, where applicable~~ [covered above]

Discovery Projects assessment criteria

Investigator(s)/Capability 35%
- Describe:
  - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)
  - time and capacity to undertake the research
  - evidence of experience in research training, mentoring and supervision (where appropriate)
  - the capability of the investigator or team to build collaborations both within Australia and internationally

Project Quality and Innovation: 40%
- Describe the:
  - 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.
  - ~~the extent to which the research addresses a significant problem;~~ [reworded]
  - ~~evidence that the conceptual/theoretical framework is innovative and original~~ [reworded]
  - ~~potential for the research to contribute to the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities~~ [relocated to Benefit]
  - ~~the extent to which the research project includes aims, concepts, methods and results which will advance knowledge~~ [reworded]

Benefit: 15%
- Describe the potential benefits including:
  - new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research
  - economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities
  - potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities
  - ~~The significant new knowledge and/or innovative economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits the completed project will produce for Australia and international communities~~ [reworded]
  - ~~The cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money~~ [relocated to Feasibility]

Feasibility: 10%
- Describe the:
  - cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money
  - suitability of environment for the research team and their project, and for HDR students where appropriate
  - availability of the necessary facilities to complete the project
  - extent to which the project's design, participants and requested budget create confidence in the timely and successful completion of the project

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

Discovery Indigenous assessment criteria

Investigator(s)/Capability 35%
- Describe:
  - Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)
  - time and capacity to undertake the research
  - evidence of experience in research training, mentoring and supervision (where appropriate)
  - the capability of the investigator or team to build collaborations both within Australia and internationally

Project Quality and Innovation (40%)
- Describe the:
  - 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.
  - enhancement of project quality by DAATSIA
  - ~~the extent to which the research addresses a significant problem;~~ [reworded]
  - ~~evidence that the conceptual/theoretical framework is innovative and original~~ [reworded]
  - ~~the extent to which the research project includes aims, concepts, methods and results which will advance knowledge~~ [reworded]
  - ~~the potential for the research to contribute to the Australian Government's SRPs~~ [moved to Benefit]

Benefit ~~and Collaboration~~ (15%)
- Describe the potential benefits including the:
  - new or advanced knowledge resulting from outcomes of the research
  - economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits for Australia and international communities
  - potential contribution to capacity in the Australian Government's Science and Research Priorities
  - ~~The significant new knowledge and/or innovative economic, commercial, environmental, social and/or cultural benefits the completed project will produce for Australian and international communities;~~ [reworded]
  - ~~How the host organisations will be utilised in the project~~ [removed]

Feasibility (10%)
- Describe the:
  - 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
  - The availability of the necessary facilities to complete the project
  - 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
  - the strategies for enabling collaboration with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities where appropriate (for example, dialogue/collaboration with an Indigenous cultural mentor)
  - any existing or developing, supportive and high quality research communities
  - ~~The extent to which the project will build collaboration across research organisations and/or industry and/or with other disciplines both within Australia and internationally~~ [reworded]
  - ~~The cost-effectiveness of the research and its value for money.~~ [Moved to Feasibility]