



# INNOVATION INNO

Powering Ideas  
An Innovation Agenda  
for the 21st Century

## Collaborative Research Networks

### Key Points

- The Collaborative Research Networks program will provide \$52.0 million from 2011 to assist smaller and regional universities adapt to a research system driven more strongly by performance outcomes.
- The program complements the reforms of the research block grants system under the *Sustainable Research Excellence in Universities* and *Joint Research Engagement* initiatives.

### Facts and Figures

- Grants will be available to less research-intensive universities listed under Table A and B of the *Higher Education Support Act 2003*, as leaders of collaborative projects with other universities.
- From 1 July 2010, regional and smaller universities will be invited to make submissions which support an area of national importance.
- The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research will run one competitive grant round each year. Each eligible university will be invited to provide one submission only in each round, although they may be partners in submissions led by other universities.

- Funding will be made available to successful universities from 1 January 2011. Grant amounts may vary between universities. It is intended that each grant will generally be up to a maximum value of \$2.0 million per project. However, the program will also have the flexibility to support a small number of larger “lighthouse” projects.

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- Mandatory criteria will include the requirement that all submissions are based on verifiable evidence that demonstrates each regional university's:
  1. areas of research and research training excellence; and
  2. collaborative links with universities with established research strengths.
- In the future the Excellence in Research for Australia initiative will provide evidence against the program's mandatory criteria by demonstrating where research excellence occurs.