

29 October 2018

The Early- and Mid-Career Researcher (EMCR) Forum is greatly disturbed by the recent news that the former Minister for Education and Training vetoed eleven grants recommended for funding by the Australian Research Council (ARC) in 2017 and 2018.

The EMRC Forum expresses its concerns in particular on the effect that the Minister's decision has on the career of those applying for Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) and Future Fellowships. The ARC DECRA and Future Fellowship are prestigious schemes and can make or break an EMCR career. The proposals recommended for funding by the ARC were identified as such via a rigorous and lengthy process of independent expert peer review and deemed outstanding applications in highly competitive national schemes. Ministerial intervention of this kind is unwarranted and serves to undermine the integrity of the ARC competitive research process and its international reputation for excellence.

This statement was released with support from humanities EMCRs, a link to the Australian Academy of the Humanities' media release can be found [here](#).