

2005 Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG)

The objectives of RIBG are to:

- enhance the development and maintenance of research infrastructure in higher education institutions for the support of high quality research in all disciplines;
- meet project-related infrastructure costs associated with Australian Competitive Grants;
- remedy deficiencies in current research infrastructure;
- ensure that areas of recognised research potential, in which institutions have taken steps to initiate high quality research activity, have access to the support necessary for development.

Permitted Items for RIBG Expenditure

RIBG funds can only be applied for the following purposes:

- non-capital aspects of facilities such as libraries, laboratories, computing centres, animal houses, herbaria, experimental farms;
- equipment purchase, installation, maintenance, hire and lease;
- salaries of research support staff (including research assistants; accounting and administrative staff; and technicians) employed to provide general support for activity in a given area (e.g. a research assistant providing assistance for a number of research projects but not a research assistant dedicated to a particular project)
- provide for travel costs to allow participation in international consortia

Items not Permitted for RIBG Expenditure

RIBG funds must not be used to fund:

- capital works (i.e. construction of buildings);
- rental of accommodation;
- salaries of teaching and research and research-only academic staff (including the cost of "buying time" to free such staff to do more research);
- salaries of staff supporting research at the institutional level (e.g. Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research), Research Grants Officer);
- stipends of postgraduate research students; and
- travel costs directly associated with individual projects (with the exception of travel costs to allow participation in international consortia).