

Monash Guidelines for CRC Involvement

Monash University is committed to strengthening its ties with the broader community to maximise the potential benefits of our research activities. Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs) are an excellent vehicle for facilitating knowledge transfer. Monash is a strong supporter of the CRC program and is a participant in more than 18 CRCs.

These guidelines are designed to support researchers who may be considering some involvement in a new or existing CRC. It is appreciated that certain circumstances may justify a deviation from these guidelines. For all CRC inquiries please contact:

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1. Conditions precedent to participation

The Federal Government requires all new CRCs to be established as incorporated entities which may increase risk exposure for participants. These risks should be balanced against the potential beneficial outcomes that CRC involvement can offer.

The expected return on investment in CRCs for Monash often relies on whether we provide unique services or capabilities to the CRC. Our involvement in future CRCs is conditional on Monash providing core expertise/capability/infrastructure to the CRC that is not substantially duplicated by other potential CRC participants.

2. Monash contributions to CRCs

Universities typically contribute cash and/or in-kind (staff and infrastructure) to CRC's. However Monash, along with many of the other GO8 universities, chose to contribute only in-kind support in the last CRC round. Monash's position regarding cash is unlikely to change in Round 11 unless a special case can be made to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).

Cash contributions

May be considered on a case-by-case basis. Any cash contribution by Monash is likely to be provided as 'tied' cash, with the money coming back to support CRC funded staff positions or project activities at Monash. In circumstances where Monash contributes cash, the University would expect to receive at least four times its total cash and in-kind contributions back in funding to support CRC related activities.

In-kind contributions

In-kind contributions are to be valued using Monash's Project Costing Model (see <http://www.firm.monash.edu.au/finance/costingpricingfees/cpf-projectcostingmodel/index.html>).

Note: the Monash model reflects the true value of our in-kind contributions and is different to the costing formula used to support the CRC bids.

Where Monash makes an in-kind contribution to the CRC it expects to receive at least three times the value of that investment back in project funding (see CRC Funded Activities). Descriptions of the projects likely to be supported by the CRC, including research personnel, estimated budgets and timelines, are required prior to Monash committing any resources to the application process.

3. CRC Funded Activities

Funding received from CRCs can usually be divided into CRC-funded staff positions or project costs. Project costs may include infrastructure not provided as in-kind, capital items (equipment) and consumables.

CRC funded staff positions must be funded on a full cost recovery basis. This is approximately 2.25 times base salary for laboratory based personnel and 1.8 times base salary for non-laboratory personnel.

Project support costs are 1.1 times actual costs to cover administrative overheads. Additional charges may also be applied to capital items with high operating costs (unless those costs form part of our in-kind contribution).

4. Beneficial interest in project outcomes

Monash should be entitled to a beneficial interest in project outcomes whenever it contributes cash and/or in-kind to a CRC. This generally takes the form of a share in licensing income received by the CRC from the commercial exploitation of CRC project outcomes.

5. Board positions

Monash employees must seek prior approval of the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) before nominating themselves for board or executive positions in the CRC. Monash academics are strongly encouraged to take part in CRC scientific advisory committees (or similar).

6. Monash Representation

The Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) will nominate a person or persons with the authority to represent Monash's interests in the CRC bid process.

To reduce the presence of doubt, it is preferred that Monash researchers refrain from acting on behalf of the University.