



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS
Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities for funding
commencing 2026 (LE26)

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- All participants should read the *Linkage Program Grant Guidelines (2024, second edition): Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities* (Grant Guidelines) available on [GrantConnect](#) and specific *Instructions to Applicants* documents available on Grant Connect as they contain important information for Research Office staff and individual participants preparing applications.
- The Australian Research Council (ARC) does not respond to queries from individual participants. Individual participants should direct all queries regarding ARC grant opportunities to their Administering Organisation's Research Office (or equivalent). If further information regarding the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) is required, the Research Office should contact the NCGP at arc-ncgp@arc.gov.au.
- Information regarding the Research Management System ([RMS](#)) is available at the [ARC website](#), or by contacting RMSSupport@arc.gov.au for assistance.

This Frequently Asked Questions document will be updated as required.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities (LIEF) Frequently Asked Questions

1.1 I would like to use funds awarded through other funders (HERDC Category 2 or Category 3) as an Eligible Organisation contribution towards a LIEF application. Would this be possible and if so, would it be considered as a cash contribution from the Eligible Organisation or would it be noted as an in-kind contribution?

The Administering Organisation would need to be cautious to ensure that any awarded HERDC Category 2 or Category 3 funds are not misrepresented as university funds contributing to a LIEF application. This is to ensure that clause 8.4 of the Grant Guidelines is not contravened (clause copied below):

In Our absolute discretion, We may recommend an application not be approved if we consider it (a) incomplete, (b) inaccurate or contains false or misleading information, or (c) is otherwise in breach of the *Australian Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research* (2018).

The two categories are as follows:

- If the funds awarded through other funders is category 3 funding (philanthropic, private sector or international funding) it may be an acceptable contribution on a LIEF application, with an explanation in the budget justification about what the funds were for originally, and what the funds will be used for now. Please check the funder's grant agreements and with your finance team to ensure these sourced funds do not contravene any clauses within the funder's grant agreement(s).
- If the funds awarded through other funders is category 2 funding (government non-competitive funding) this is more difficult. It may be an acceptable LIEF contribution if it was not awarded for research, or if the university could justify how the original grant is related to the intended contribution and show it is not the grant money being represented as university money. Any funds sourced from grant money must not be represented as university money. An example of this is:
 - Commonwealth fellowships funding. As mentioned in the Grant Guidelines, the money in this case is coming from the Commonwealth for research, so the university cannot represent it as a university contribution.

1.2 I am applying for ARC funding through the LIEF scheme for the purchase of equipment for a one-year project. The equipment comes with a standard one-year warranty, and to ensure that the equipment is operational beyond the life of the project, can ARC funding and cash contribution from a participating organisation be used to cover the cost of the extended warranty?

Extended warranty is considered an indirect cost and as such under section 5.5.j of the Grant Guidelines, ARC funding cannot be requested for costs not directly related to the project.

Contributions from participating organisations can be used to pay for such items, however such contributions for indirect costs are not eligible contributions toward the minimum of 25 per cent of the total direct cost of the research infrastructure, required to be supplied by participating organisations.

Contributions for years beyond the project activity period cannot be entered into the application budget. Section 5.5.h of the Grant Guidelines also states that you cannot request or use grant funds for “maintenance costs of the proposed research infrastructure after the first year of the project...”

1.3 Is it mandatory to provide a quote from multiple suppliers at Question D6 for my proposed infrastructure?

No. It is not mandatory to include quotes from multiple sources for the proposed infrastructure on an LE26 application, however if only one quote was provided for an item in the Summary of Quotes at D6, a statement must be provided detailing the reason(s) for each instance where only one quote was provided for an item.

2. Policies

2.1 Where can the ARC’s policies and statements be found?

ARC policies can be found on the [ARC website](#).

If you require further assistance in locating a particular policy or statement, individual researchers should contact their Research Office in the first instance.

2.2 What are the implications of Open Access mandates on publishing research?

The ARC Open Access Policy applies to all Research Outputs arising from ARC Funded Research and their Metadata. Any Research Outputs arising from an ARC supported research project must be made openly accessible within a 12-month period from the date of publication. For the purposes of the policy, Research Outputs do not include research data and research data outputs. Further details about the Open Access requirements for research outputs including metadata, licencing, and reporting obligations can be found in the ARC Open Access policy on the [ARC website](#).

2.3 For question E3 “Other Australian Government Priority areas” can only policies be included or can other initiatives, agendas, investments etc. be included, if they are areas of priority for the Australian Government?

The response to question E3 should include announced only policies of the current Australian Government.

Examples: Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality (2024), Australia’s Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan (2022), Digital Economy Strategy (2022), Powering Australia Plan (2022), Multicultural Access and Equity Policy (2013).

These policies may include announced initiatives, agendas, and investments (e.g., Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Scheme (2018), Developing Northern Australia (2016)). They could be policies announced by the current Australian Government (e.g. Working for Women: A Strategy for Gender Equality (2024)) or policies of a former Australian Government that have been continued by the current Australian Government (e.g. Australia’s Long-Term Emissions Reduction Plan (2022)).