**C2. Administering Organisation Letter of Support**

*A Letter of Support from ECU confirming its commitment to the appointment of the DECRA Fellow, and the application that addresses the relevant criteria in the Grant Guidelines and set out below.*

*(upload a PDF of up to 2 A4 pages).*

* *Outline the area of core or emerging research strength and describe the level of resources to be provided to support the participant (for example, project costs, PhD students, or salary top-up).*
* *Detail opportunities for the participant to demonstrate the level of independence required to be competitive for research and/or research and teaching pathways at the Administering Organisation during and after the project.*
* *Describe how the salary that was previously provided by You to the participant will be used where the participant is Your existing employee; and*
* *Detail how the 0.2 FTE allocated to the administering institution over the life of the DECRA fellowship will be used to develop the participant’s career skills.*

***This letter is to be drafted by DECRA Candidate in consultation with the School Associate Dean Research and the DECRA Candidate’s Research Mentor.***

**INTRODUCTION**

Edith Cowan University (ECU) strongly support Dr XXX DECRA application. Dr XXX has been in the School of XXXX since YEAR. He/She/They has/have a PhD in *<insert broad field e.g. astro physics>* on <insert general description of the PhD field, e.g. the ability to utilise black holes for time travel>

*Paragraph around publishing record, supervision, awards or other key achievements. For example*

*Dr XXX is internationally regarded for her/his/their pioneering work, which has been driving forward our understanding of black hole time travel. Dr XXX has a strong publishing record, having co-authored 50 SCOPUS and ISI journal articles; 2 book chapters; and 2 conference presentations. His/Her/Their studies have been published in prestigious journals such as “Nature Astronomy” (IF: 11.518, Q1), and “The Astronomy and Astrophysics Review” (IF: 11.611, Q1). Dr XXX’s publications have received in excess of Z citations, and he/she/they has a Google Scholar h-index of 28, which is exceptional for an early career researcher. Dr XXX is currently co-supervising 7 PhD candidates, 20 Masters students, and 7 Bachelor students have completed their research projects successfully under his/her/their supervision. The findings of these studies completed by his/her/their students have been published in high ranking journals including …... This is evidence of Dr XXX’s excellent supervisory and collaborative skills, in that his/her/their students have the opportunity to publish, an essential skill and one which will make them more competitive in their future careers.*

**ALIGNMENT WITH ECU STRATEGIC PLAN AND RESEARCH STRENGTHS**

*’Undertaking impactful world-class research’* is one of four strategic goals outlined in the *ECU Strategic Plan 2022-2026.* These goals are supported by key objectives aimed at achieving growth in focused, world-class research, a strong research culture of excellence, higher degree by research program with industry-focussed training, and purposeful research partnerships with industries and communities. ECU’s strategic research goals and actions align strongly with the objectives of the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) hence ECU is both well positioned and committed to providing a stimulating and supportive research environment for DECRA recipients in our priority research areas.

*Outline how the DECRA candidate’s research is aligned to an ECU Strategic Research Institute or Centre; or aligned to research strengths within the School Include any School or discipline rankings, such as Time Higher Education, CTWS Leiden Ranking, ERA or EI rankings.*

**RESOURCES TO SUPPORT THE DECRA CANDIDATE**

ECU recognises the strategic value of Dr XXX’s research program and its capacity to increase ECU’s research profile both nationally and internationally. In addition to ongoing mentoring and professional development opportunities, if Dr XXX’s DECRA application is successful, ECU will provide a salary top-up to the value of $NNN to cover the shortfall between Dr XXX’s actual salary and the ARC DECRA salary over the duration of the Fellowship.

*List any contributions from school including in kind (for eg. Technical support, infrastructure, equipment) also.*

**OPPORTUNITIES AT ECU FOR THE DECRA CANDIDATE TO DEMONSTRATE THE LEVEL OF INDEPENDENCE REQUIRED TO BE COMPETITIVE**

ECU’s School of XXX through its high-calibre research groups, in particular the ABC research group, will continue to provide a quality supportive research environment and effective peer mentoring to Dr XXX. Further strategic mentorship and guidance will be provided by the School’s Associate Dean (Research) Prof XXX or Prof YYY, who has established the ABC research group. In addition, Dr XXX receives personal and career development mentorship from XXX.

ECU has identified through its Academic Staff Performance Expectations and Outcomes (ASPEO) Framework a targeted career pathway and development strategy for early career researchers such as Dr XXX who are vital to the University’s further research ambitions and investment. ECU has a strong commitment to building staff research capacity, evidenced through a comprehensive range of funding, writing, research management, administration and advisory support provided at School and University levels. Professional development of early career researchers to establish their research independence and foster strategic collaborations are particular priorities advanced through initiatives such as ECU’s Early and Mid-Career Research Network. ECU will continue to support Dr XXX’s research activities and provide training through participation in internal professional development events as well as external workshops and conferences.

In summary, Dr XXX has already demonstrated strong commitment / exceptional / outstanding ability to integrate XXX research expertise and interests with teaching and leadership roles in <insert broad research field> at ECU. The additional research opportunities afforded by this ARC DECRA will enable Dr XXX to consolidate and further strengthen her/his impressive track record and further develop research focus and depth within the University’s <insert broad research field> research area. This experience will strongly support Dr XXX independent career trajectory and ensure Dr XXX develops fully as research leader in this important area of research.

I am therefore pleased to express my unreserved support for Dr XXX’s DECRA application.

Professor Caroline Finch AO

Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)