



Australia's Economic Accelerator

The Australian Government has decided not to fund any further new research projects through Australia's Economic Accelerator (AEA).

How will it work?

All existing 366 AEA projects with contractually committed funding will continue to be supported through to their conclusion.

The Department of Education will retain approximately \$3.6 million in administered funding per year from 2028-29 to continue to support work associated with existing AEA projects.

Funding for new projects through AEA will not continue beyond the 2025-26 financial year and previously advertised opportunities under Innovate Round 2 (closed 29 October 2025), Ignite Round 3 (closed 4 March 2026), and Innovate Round 3 (promoted 20 April 2026) will not proceed.

Why is it important?

The decision contributes to the Government's approach to responsible economic management and fiscal repair while recognising that research is important for Australia's continued economic growth and productivity.

The program will continue to administer the \$224.2 million in funding for 366 projects it has committed to since 4 March 2025 (Ignite Round 1), 4 July 2025 (Innovate Round 1) and 20 January 2026 (Ignite Round 2).

Across Government, total investment in R&D is projected to reach about \$15.1 billion in financial year 2025-26. While across the Education portfolio, investment in research is budgeted at about \$4.0 billion for 2025-26. This includes:

- Over \$1 billion annually through the Australian Research Council (ARC) to support excellence including support for more than 6,000 active research projects, fostering collaboration, capability and impact.

- More than \$3 billion in 2025-26 will support Australia's research sector through key programs including the Research Support Program, the Research Training Program, and the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS).
 - NCRIS alone represents a \$4 billion investment over the 12 years to 2029, which enables around 100,000 researchers to access cutting edge research infrastructure, including some 90,000 Australian researchers.

How much will it save?

Savings of \$800.1 million over five years from 2025-26 will be made, while ensuring all 366 existing AEA projects continue to be funded to completion.