
Academic Board

Report of the Vice-Chancellor

I. Higher Education Issues

I.1 Compact Agreements

Compact discussions have been rescheduled to commence in February 2011 as the extended caretaker period following the Federal Election meant that preparation of key documents relating to compacts and performance funding was delayed.

I.2 Teaching and learning performance funding

Performance Funding will have two components from 2011 onwards.

The first part, with the infelicitous name of 'Facilitation Funding', will be awarded to each university provided it has satisfactory strategies in place to achieve its teaching and learning mission, and agreed targets for Australian Government goals such as increased participation rates. This funding will be allocated on a *pro rata* basis, with \$94.2m available for 2011.

The second part, called 'Reward Funding' is more like the old Learning and Teaching Performance Fund in that the indicators primarily relate to the student experience and the quality of learning outcomes, although up to 20% of it is also being allocated for performance in enrolling low SES and one other under-represented group of students. What is different is that every university will be able to get its *pro rata* share of this funding (\$136.6m in 2012) if it is able to show that it is already performing at an excellent level, or if it achieves the improvement targets set by the Government.

The indicators to be used for most of the Reward funding (which starts in 2012) are *improvements* in the CEQ good teaching and overall satisfaction items, and the CEQ Generic Skills measure. It is proposed that this be supplemented by the US Collegiate Learning Assessment measure from 2013 (which seeks to measure improvement in generic skills). DEEWR recognises that these measures are flawed and will develop a new Student Experience Survey (something like AUSSE or the old First Year Experience Survey), as well as a new composite indicator of teaching quality. It is envisaged these new indicators will be in place by 2012.

2 Australian Research Council Grants

La Trobe University submitted 101 Discovery project applications and 6 linkage project applications.

Of particular significance was the news that Professor Marilyn Lake (History) and Professor Leann Tilley (Molecular Sciences) were among only 30 scholars nationally to be awarded Australian Professorial Fellowships (APFs). It is particularly noteworthy that only 5 APFs were awarded in the Humanities and Social Sciences and, with the exception of Professor Lake, all were in Go8 universities.

However, in an environment where funding allocations for Discovery Projects were comparable to previous years, La Trobe was successful in attracting funding for only 12 projects of the 101 submitted for a total of \$4.7m. This represents a success rate of 11.9% when the overall average success rate for funding for 2011 is 22%. This rate is also significantly lower than the Victorian average of 20.18% and the average for IRUA Universities which was 17.15%.

A total of \$91,530,107 was allocated to Victorian Universities; the bulk of this went to Monash (\$35,273,201) and the University of Melbourne (\$37,566,056).

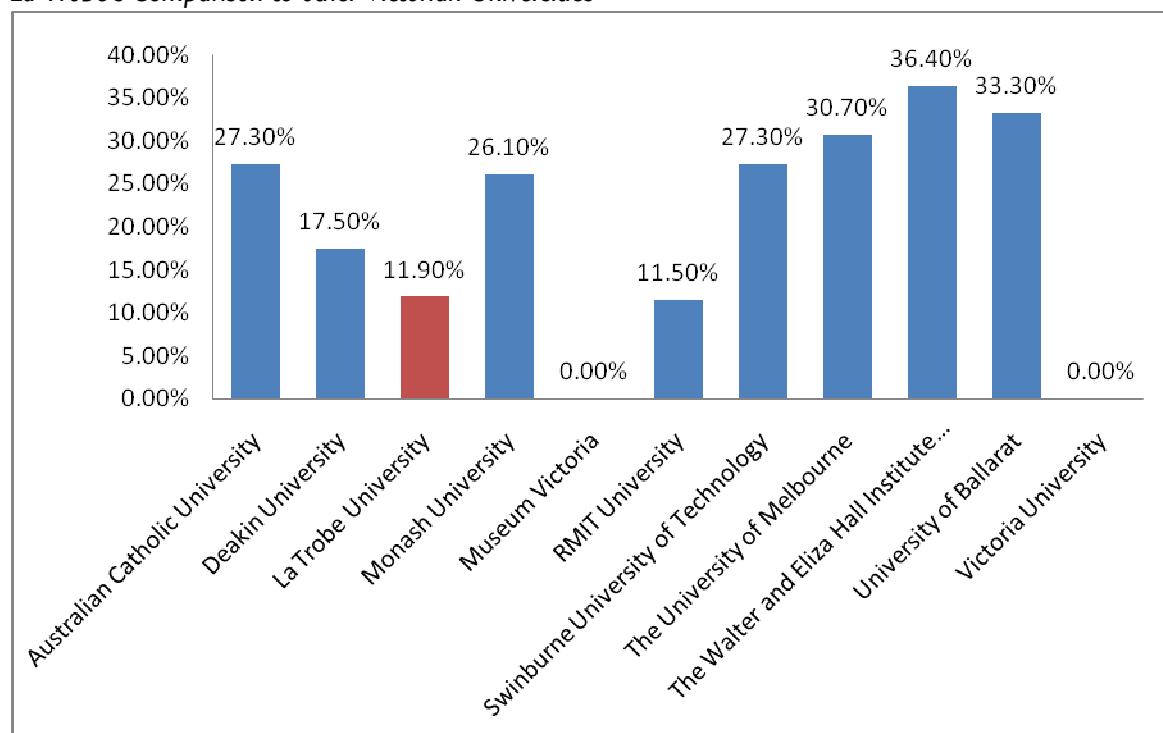
La Trobe was more successful in attracting funding for Linkage Grants. The University submitted 6 applications and was successful with 4 of these for a total of \$1.638m. This represents a success rate of 66.7% which is well above the overall success rate of 46.7%. This outcome compares well to other Victorian universities where the average success rate is 42.06% and to IRUA universities where the average was 51.5%.

Discovery Projects - Selection Report for Funding Commencing in 2011

The ARC overall success rate and % of funds allocated for submitted proposals was consistent with the previous three years.

La Trobe University submitted 101 applications for funding and was successful in attracting funding for 12 of those. This represents a success rate of 11.9% for a total of \$4,696,613.

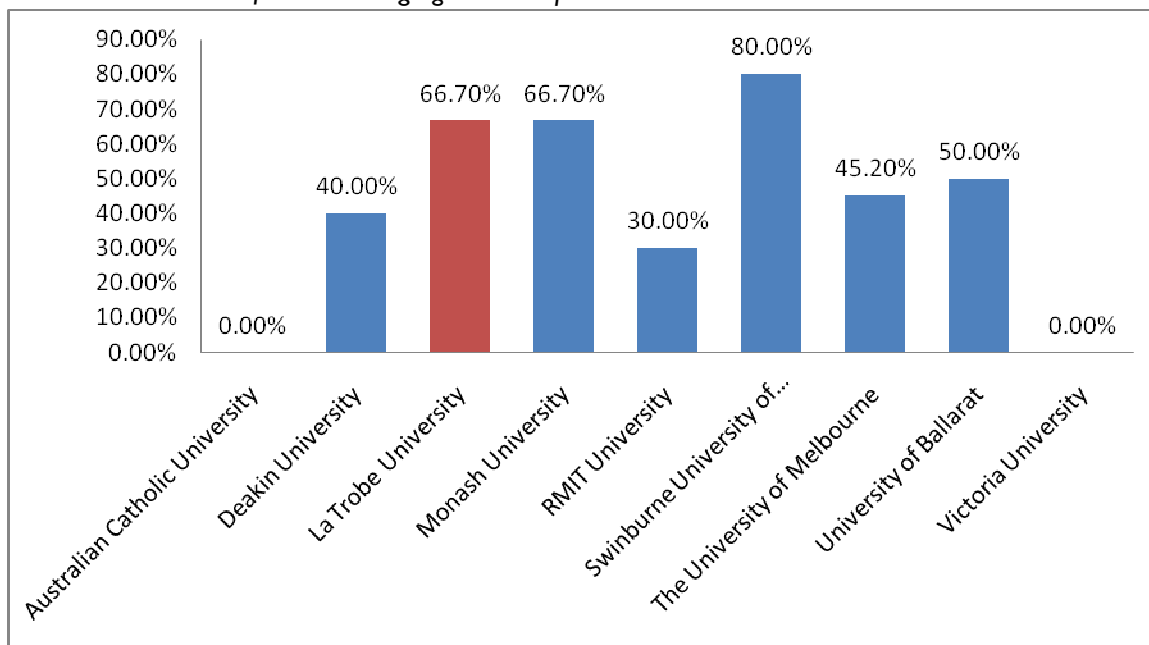
La Trobe's Comparison to other Victorian Universities



Linkage Projects Round 1 - Selection Report for Funding Commencing in 2011

The ARC received a total of 399 proposals for Linkage Projects Round One 2011, of which one proposal was withdrawn. The overall success rate of 46.7 per cent in this round represents a slight increase on the success rate of 42.6 per cent in the previous round.

La Trobe success rate for ARC linkage grants compared to other Victorian Universities



3 BHERT Award

On 4 November 2010, the University won a national award from the respected Business/Higher Education Round Table (B-HERT). La Trobe won the award for the "Best Higher Education & Training Collaboration", specifically for the University's civil engineering partnerships/scholarships program (in partnership with the Foundation for Rural and Regional Renewal, The Pratt Foundation and other partners).

This project has developed long term embedded regional collaboration across higher education, public sector, private sector and schools. Regional support is strong and ongoing for civil engineering graduates, as their skills are seen as a key component to the ongoing economic growth of regional Victoria.

4. Accolades

4.1 2010 Max Crawford Medal: Dr Roland Burke

Dr Roland Burke (Historical and European Studies), a recipient of an ARC Discovery Grant commencing in 2011, has been selected as the 2010 recipient of the Max Crawford Medal, the Australian Academy of the Humanities' most prestigious award for early-career researchers.

4.2 Ramaciotti Foundations Grant: Dr Matthew Dixon

Dr Matthew Dixon (Molecular Sciences) has received a major grant from the Ramaciotti Foundations for his research aimed at building a comprehensive understanding of the mechanisms underlying the disease malaria.

Professor Paul Johnson
 Vice-Chancellor

5 November 2010