



Mathematics in Australia An ARC Perspective

Professor Jonathan Manton

Executive Director, Mathematics, Information
and Communication Sciences

7 February 2007



The ARC

Mission

‘To advance Australia’s research excellence
to be globally competitive and deliver benefits
to the community’

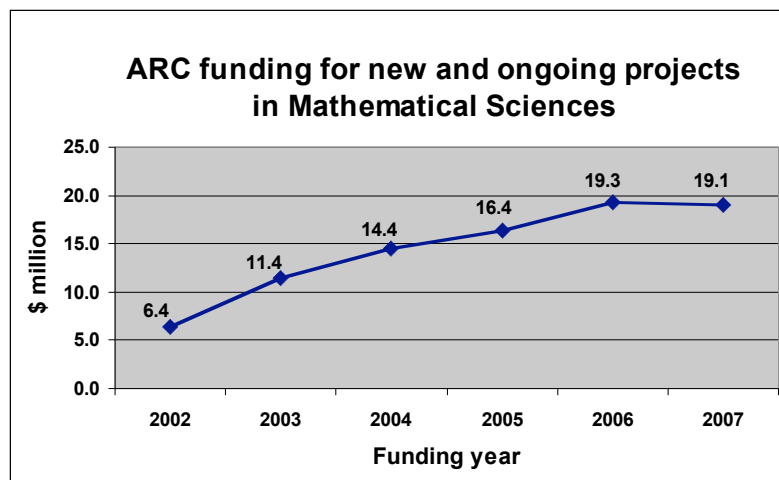
- Annual budget \$570.3m
- 9.5% of total research budget of Australian government
- 2.5% of total R&D funding in Australia

It follows that the ARC is an important component of the R&D funding in Australia but by no means the dominant funder of R&D. Its capacity to influence R&D developments alone is therefore restricted.

ARC funding of mathematics (1)



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

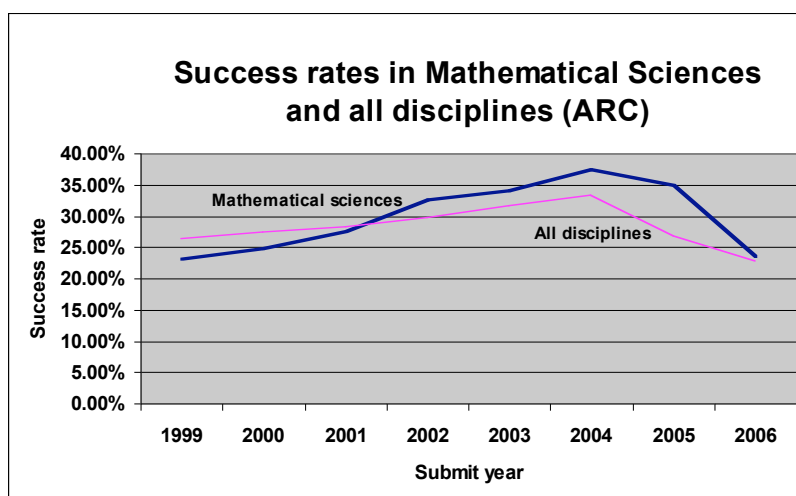


- Funding has almost trebled over the last five years
- In this period, the ARC's funding to all disciplines has increased by 120%

ARC funding of mathematics (2)



Australian Government
Australian Research Council



- Success rates in Mathematical Sciences are comparable with the ARC all-discipline average.

Mathematics in Australia



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

ARC considers maths and other fundamental disciplines as necessary to having a strong innovation system.

The Audit of Science, Engineering and Technology Skills released in July last year highlighted:

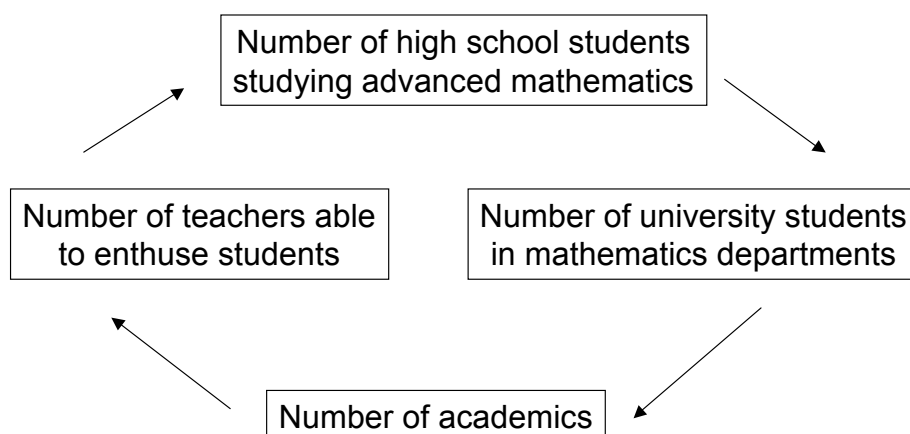
- static participation in Year 12 mathematics courses,
- poor perceptions of career options,
- teacher shortages in the enabling sciences, including mathematics, and
- Australia's relatively low proportion of higher education graduates in mathematics and statistics (0.4%), compared with other OECD countries (1.0%).

The Australian Government considers these issues on an ongoing basis.

Looking to the Future



Australian Government
Australian Research Council



Everyone's responsibility to ensure we spiral up.
The ARC will be happy to receive larger numbers of excellent mathematics applications.