The “pointers” are not exhaustive and are from the perspective of an administrator working with ARC DECRA applications. It is recommended that you discuss your proposal with senior research colleagues and your Associate Dean of Research prior to submission to maximise your success.

These are a starting point for the DECRA "Institutional Support" section and also the Strategic Statement. Also below is some advice on the distinction between Part D1 'Institutional Support' and the Part D2 Strategic Statement.

Please read these pointers and the brief advice on Part D2 in conjunction with the information on Research Environment provided on our web site - http://www.acu.edu.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/398918/ResearchEnvironment_for_DECRA_Discovery_template.pdf

The intellectual environment
- What elements of the research environment of the CIs could contribute to the intellectual development of the project, to help maximise the outcomes of the proposal. Consider intellectual input from others in the field and across other disciplines. Consider the research communities that exist:
  - within the academic elements of the CIs
  - more broadly at the institutions of the CIs.
  - in national or international networks.

The national or international profile of the environment
- What is the national or international profile of the research environment? Does it lead or form a part of a national area of research strength?
- How do the capabilities and reputation of the research environment compare with national or international benchmarks?

The mentoring environment
- What people, resources or mechanisms exist in the academic elements or the national or international research networks of the CIs, to assist the CIs development as research leaders.

The publishing or communications environment
- Does the environment have outlets for publication or communication that worth mentioning? Do the academic elements of the CIs:
  - host a journal?
  - hold recurring research symposia, creative arts displays, or industry forums?
  - have the means to communicate with the general public or media outlets?

The physical or networked infrastructure environment
- What state of the art physical infrastructure does the environment hold to undertake the project?
- Does access to flagship national or international facilities contribute to the environment?
Does access to networked infrastructure like data networks contribute to the environment?

**The path-to-impact environment**
- What government linkages exist to assist the uptake of research outcomes by policymakers.
- What industry or community linkages exist to help uptake of outcomes by industry or by communities.
- What national or international linkages exist to help create impact on a national or international scale.
- What expertise exists within the environment of the CIs to help translate research outcomes along a path to impact.

**Commercialisation environment** (if applicable to proposal)
- What commercialisation services do the CIs have access to?
- What significant commercial enterprises have arisen from the environment of the CIs?

**General approaches**
When commenting on any of the areas above, consider:
- using metrics where possible to support statements.
- focusing on the characteristics of the research environment around the CIs not the track records of the CIs themselves. All CI track record information should be provided elsewhere in the application.
- providing a level of detail that is appropriate for the weighting given to assessment of this criterion.

**Institutional Support vs. Strategic Statement?** Part D2 – a draft, in Word, is to be prepared by the applicant, drawing upon information in your Part D1. The Grants Unit will format the document using the DVC (R) letter template and upload the signed letter for Part D2 in to your application on RMS.

- There will be some overlap in terms of the research environment for the project
- **Institutional support** will focus more on specific School/Centre facilities and communication of research outputs (publications, workshops, seminars, commercialisation)

- The **strategic statement** should be more about how ACU/School/Centre will support your career progression and provide avenues to assist you in research, teaching etc.
- How this research aligns with ACU’s research strengths
- Highlight how the project will foster collaborations
- How the applicant will integrate and sustain research in the field
- PhD training and scholarships to support the research project (information on ACU DECRA support is included as an appendix)
- The opportunities for the applicant to develop leadership skills, management training, mentoring, exposure to international research experience and travel
Information about the Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) is now available on the [ARC website](http://www.arc.gov.au). Applications from Early Career Researchers (ECRs) who have had their PhD confirmed on or after 1 March 2007 (or on or after 1 March 2004 and 1 March 2007 for those with significant career interruptions as specified in the conditions) for three years of funding will close with the ARC on Wednesday 21 March 2012.

ACU will provide annual financial support for each successful DECRA ACU applicant where ACU is the Administering Organisation. The funding to be made available comprises:

1. $20,000 for additional direct research and salary support costs.
2. Up to $20,000 of matching funding to the Faculty annually to support any additional salary and on-costs, infrastructure and facility requirements for the DECRA awardee.
3. One PhD stipend only scholarship where the DECRA awardee and Mentor are part of the supervisory team (subject to usual scholarship eligibility requirements) and the scholarship holder is working on the DECRA project.

There are two conditions for this funding, subject to general eligibility:

1. The research to be undertaken by the successful DECRA applicant must reflect the Faculty strategic research focus as defined by nominated Field of Research Codes (FoRs) as per the attached and result in HERDC outputs
   or
   The research to be undertaken by the successful DECRA applicant must be under the mentorship of a Senior Proven Researcher or University Priority Research Director and result in HERDC outputs.

2. Each applicant must nominate a research intensive academic staff mentor who will provide advice and support to the successful DECRA applicants for the funding term.

DECRA applications notionally including financial support from ACU must have the support of the Faculty Executive Dean/Nominee, clearly align with the strategic directions of the University and meet ACU financial support conditions. An important element of the application is the need of the University to provide a Strategic Statement of support approved by the DVCR (see 4.4 in the Guidelines). It is expected that applicants will work with their mentor and Faculty staff to draft this statement for approval by the University. This workflow aspect has been integrated into the following timeline.

**APPLICATION TIMELINE**

- **Late February 2012** Application to Faculty Executive Dean/Nominee for University and/or Faculty review and approval
- **1 March 2012** Copy of Faculty endorsed Strategic statement to be forwarded to Research Services for review and endorsement by DVCR
- **14 March 2012** Faculty endorsed application to be finalised in RMS for Research Services compliance check
### Priority Field of Research Codes for ACU

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<tr>
<th>FoR</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>1106</td>
<td>Human Movement and Sports Science</td>
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<td>1110</td>
<td>Nursing</td>
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<td>Public Health and Health Services</td>
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<td>Specialist Studies in Education</td>
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<td>1501</td>
<td>Accounting, Auditing and Accountability</td>
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<td>Business and Management</td>
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