



Australian Government

Department of Education and Training

# Implementation update: changes to research funding and training

**Cooperative Research Centres Association Workshop**

Presentation to Chairs and CEOs: 23 May 2017

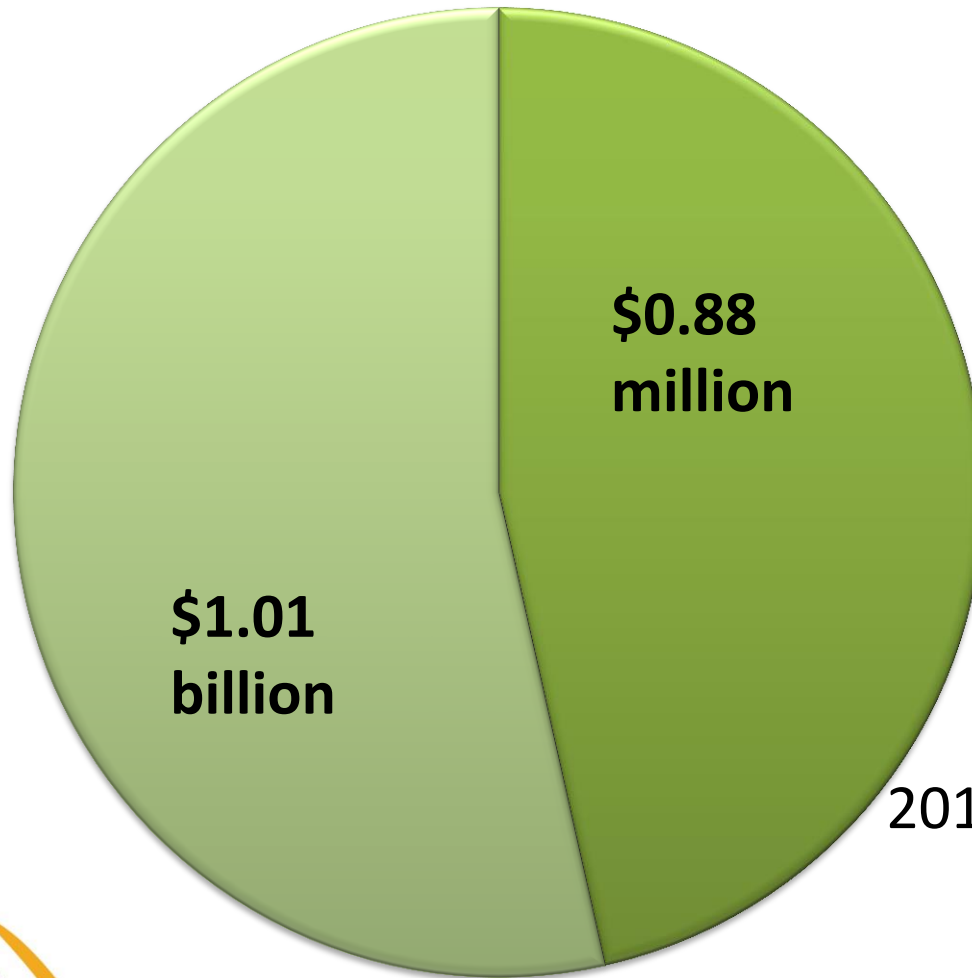
Harold Lomas  
Acting Branch Manager, Research Funding and Policy  
Branch

# Current research support & training initiatives

1. Changes to research block grants including to promote industry engagement and the interface with CRCs
2. Work underway to implement the ACOLA Review of Research Training including industry-university collaboration, internships and scholarships



# Research Block Grants (RBGs): Overview



- Research Support Program (RSP)
- Research Training Program (RTP)

2017 calendar year funding:

**\$1.89 billion**

**42 universities**

# Changes to RBGs

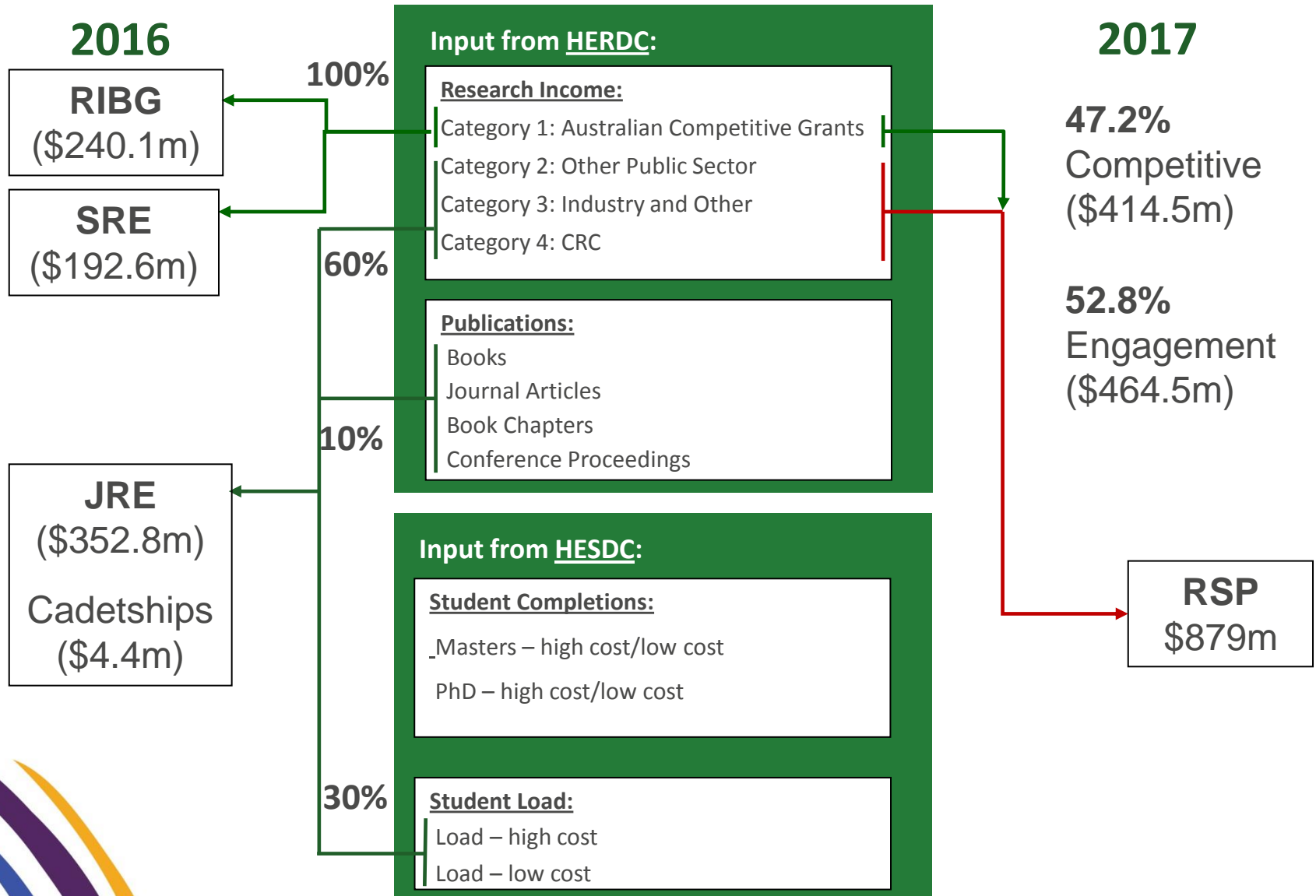
## New funding arrangements:

- Significant program restructuring and changes to funding drivers for the two new programs:
  - Research Support Program (RSP) replaced the Research Infrastructure Block Grants, Joint Research Engagement and the Sustainable Research Excellence.
  - Research Training Program (RTP) replaced the Australian Postgraduate Awards, International Postgraduate Research Scholarships and the Research Training Scheme.
- Research income and student data reporting changes
- 2017 consultation on reporting:
  - 36 submissions received



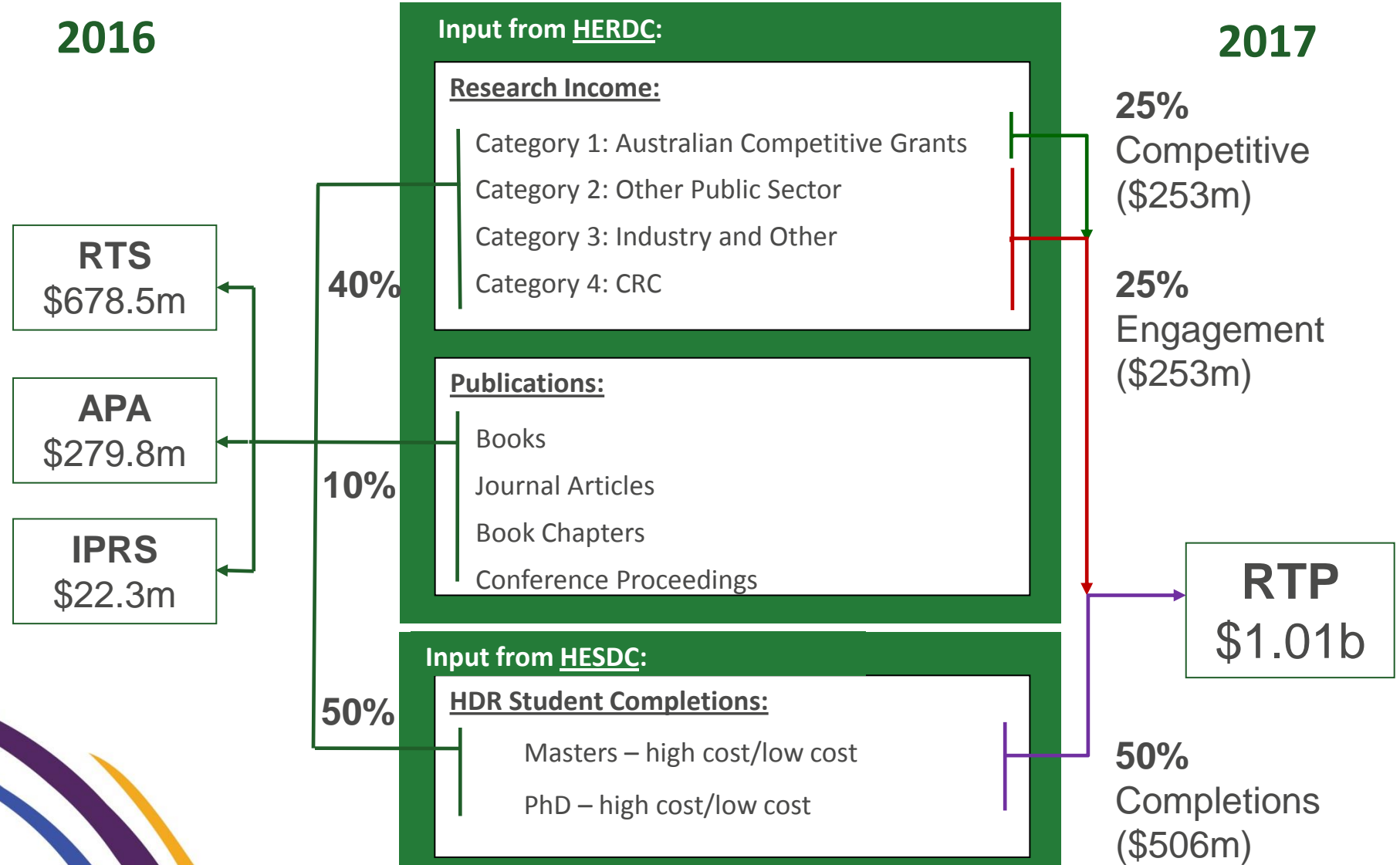
# RSP – old vs new arrangements

Figure 2. RSP funding under existing and new models



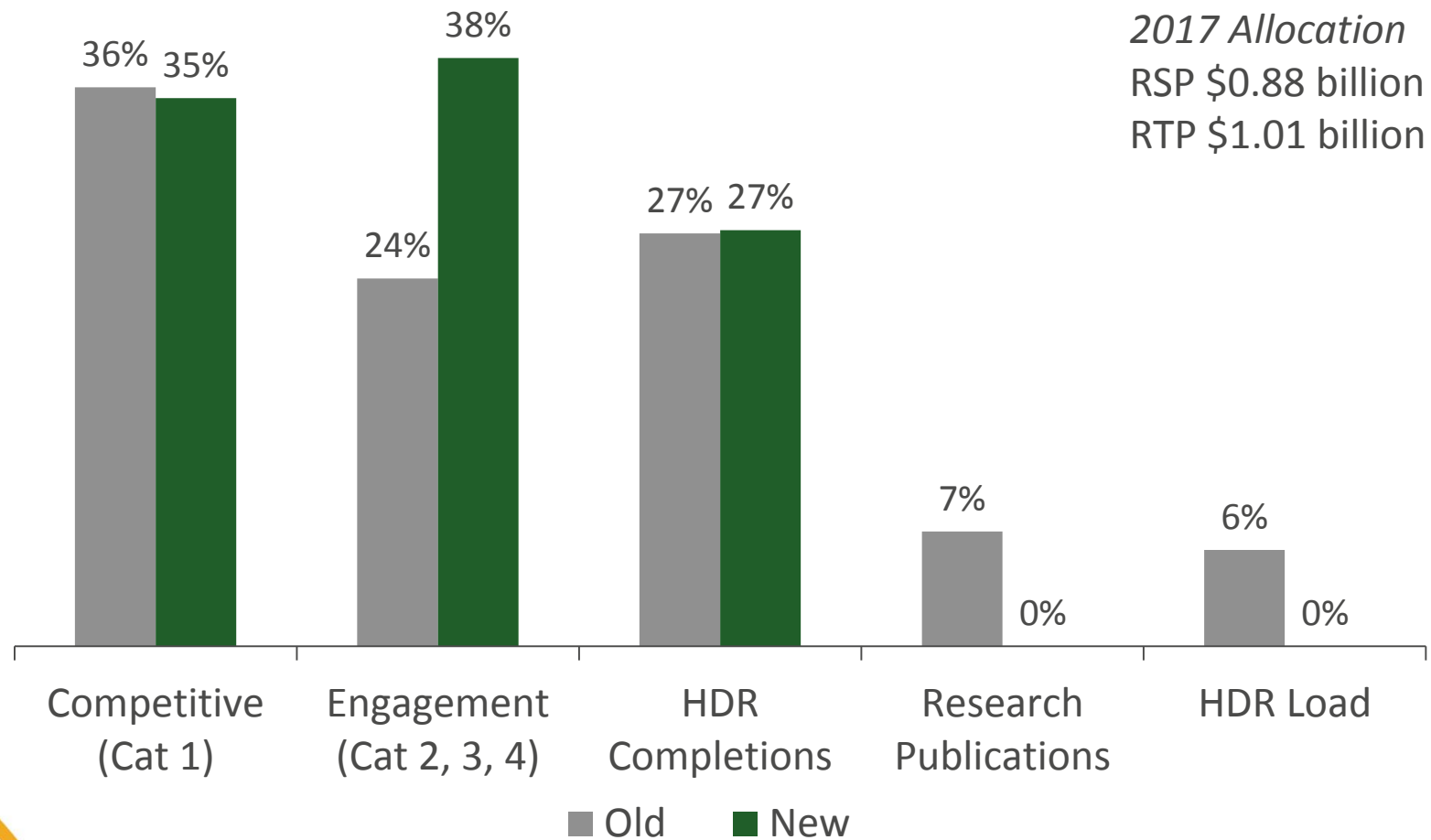
# RTP – old vs new arrangements

Figure 3. RTP funding under existing and new models



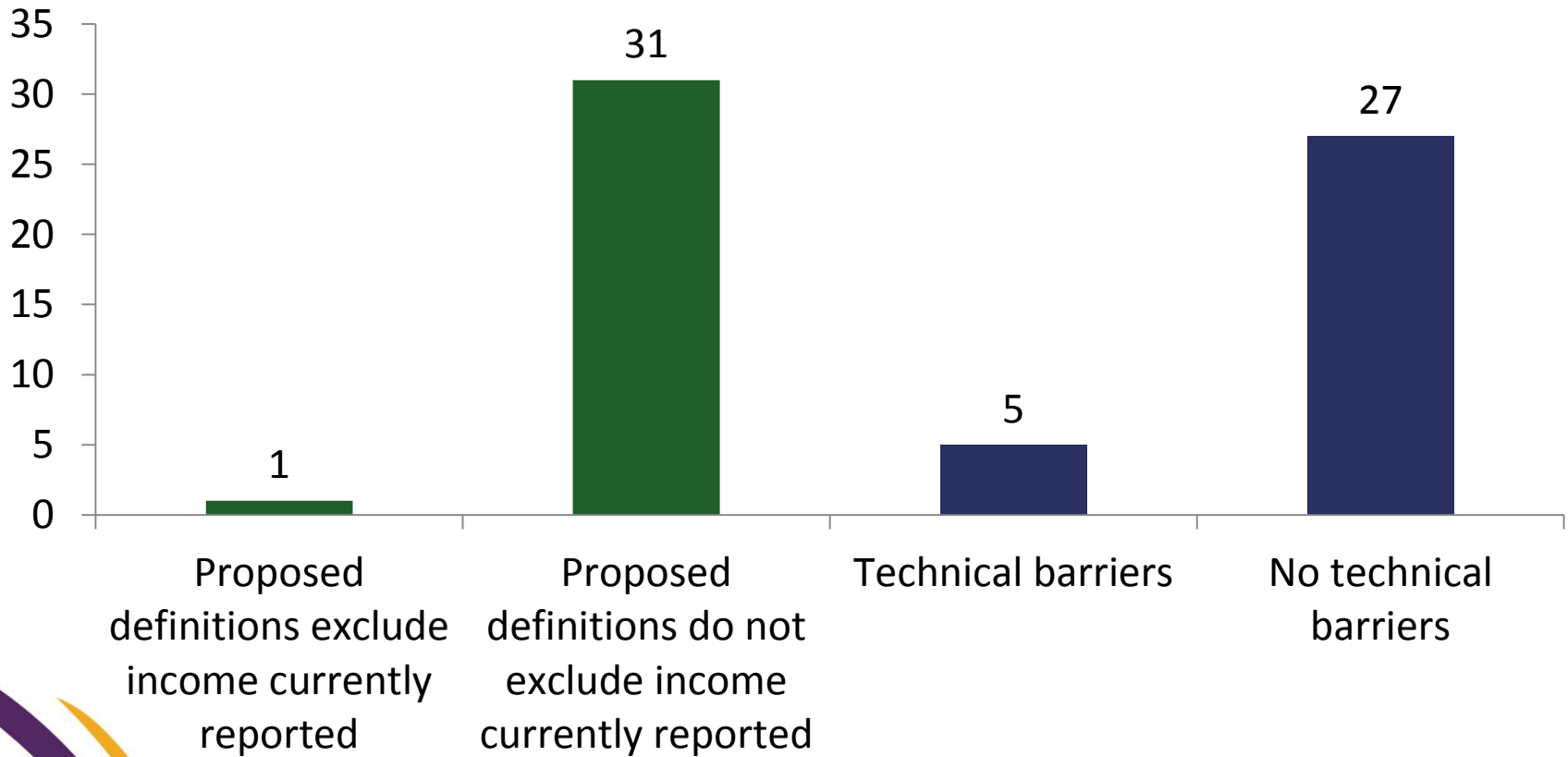
# Funding incentives – % of total RBG

Figure 1. Research block grant allocations under existing and new models



# Category 4 sub-category definitions and change to calendar year data

## Submission feedback





# Australian Council of Learned Academies (ACOLA) Review of Research Training

## Key findings and recommendations

### 11 Findings

Outcomes of HDR training not transparent

Transferable skills development needed

Improve HDR training – benchmark internationally

Govt support with length of HDR program not aligned

No national scale PhD industry placement scheme

Limited HDR entry pathways

Low number of Indigenous candidates

Industry-university collaboration ranks lowly

Too focussed on thesis – assess candidate skills/knowledge

Socio-economic benefits of the RTS are not demonstrated

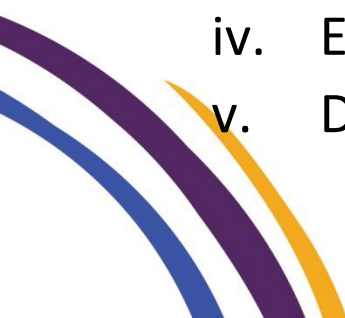
Quality of HDR training could be improved

### 6 Recommendations

1. Establish a cross-sector implementation working group
2. Make regulatory changes to facilitate HDR entry pathways
3. Incentivise industry-university collaboration

4. Develop a national PhD internship program
5. Monitor system performance - improve longitudinal data collected
6. Increase incentives for Indigenous completions and scholarship support

# Implementation of ACOLA Review of Research Training

- Working Group
    - chaired by Professor Robyn Owens
    - includes members from the university sector, industry and government
  - Key priority areas/themes for the implementation plan
    - i. Pathways to HDR training
    - ii. Industry-researcher collaboration, including placements
    - iii. Quality of the HDR training system
    - iv. Equity issues including indigenous participation
    - v. Data and evidence to monitor system performance
- 

# Industry-university collaboration

Work integrated learning activities for Australian HDR students



Sporadic, 1-2  
days/month

6 – 12 weeks

3 – 5 months

3-4 years

Amount of time HDR student spends in industry engagement

# Questions and feedback

