Call for Applications to form Non-funded (ARC) NEER Research Clusters

(ARC) NEER’s original statement of intention promises to ‘mobilise existing strengths to build up national and international research partnerships in key emerging areas of scholarly enquiry’, and to ‘coordinate large-scale cross-disciplinary investigations’. NEER remains fundamentally committed to encouraging a culture of collaborative achievement in early European research, 400-1850. This has been identified as a major challenge for the coming years, and as an index of the Network’s success and long-term influence. Accordingly, in 2006 and 2007 NEER recognised and seed-funded 14 NEER Research Clusters to begin working towards collaborative research outcomes consistent with the Network’s aims.

It is now clear that other clusters can be formed to take advantage of the possibilities for e-collaboration offered by Confluence, NEER’s collaborative software environment. NEER supports the formation of such clusters, and encourages them to work towards such outcomes as significant publications and the pursuit of major external grant funding. While seed-funding is not available, NEER’s staff will provide infrastructure support to help with such matters as facilitating contact, organising publicity for events, and supported access to Confluence.

NEER Research Clusters are envisaged as manageable groups of 3-10 people who will collaborate in a specified research area relevant to NEER. In the spirit of innovation and development, NEER welcomes the formation of research clusters by Early Career Researchers and postgraduates as well as by senior and emeritus researchers who may have found that their needs are not currently served within existing themes and research clusters. Research Clusters are encouraged to have members from more than one institution and more than one discipline, early career researchers, and international members, where possible. Nevertheless, these features are not essential if the purpose and capacity of the Research Cluster are sufficient. Coordinators of Research Clusters will be required to report annually on progress and outcomes.

Applications are invited from groups who wish to be recognised as NEER Research Clusters operating in 2007 and the immediate years beyond. Applications may be received from groups already in existence or from those planning their formation. Applications should include:

- The proposed name and function of the Research Cluster.
- The names, institutions (if applicable) and CVs (not more than 3 pages each) of the proposed membership, with an indication from members of what each expects to bring to the group’s activities. Members of Research Clusters will be expected to register with NEER if they are not already registered.
- The name and CV (not more than 5 pages) of the Coordinator of the Research Cluster, who must be an Australian-based member of NEER.
- A clear statement of the proposed activities of the Research Cluster in 2007-08. Not more than 2 pages.
- A clear statement of the medium- to long-term aims and intended outcomes of the Research Cluster, up to 2009. Not more than 2 pages.
Applications should be posted to:
Dr Claire McIlroy
Coordinator
ARC Network for Early European Research M208
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Hwy
CRAWLEY  WA  6009

Or via email to cmcilroy@cyllene.uwa.edu.au

by November 2, 2007

In order to maintain parity of standards with existing NEER clusters, applications will be assessed and ranked by an independent panel chosen by the NEER Management Committee for their experience in collaborative research. The results will be known by approximately December 14, 2007.