Call for Applications to form (ARC) NEER Research Clusters: Second Round

(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 will recognise and seed-fund a number of NEER Research Clusters to begin working towards collaborative research outcomes consistent with the Network’s aims. Such outcomes will eventually include significant publications and the pursuit of major external grant funding.

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 the Network, 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, outcomes and the use of NEER funds.

In the first instance, it is expected that funds might be sought to allow initial meetings of Research Cluster members, including international members, to share ideas and plan activities, but other uses of the money for collaborative research purposes may be allowed. NEER expects to fund no more than 5 Research Clusters in this second round.

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, with a budget for initial funding requirements of between $3,000 and $10,000. 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
Faculty of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences
University of Western Australia
35 Stirling Hwy
CRAWLEY WA 6009

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

by Friday 17 November, 2006.

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 before the end of the year.