**IMPORTANT NOTE:**

Deakin Research does not issue standard statements on the research environment or institutional support. Faculties, Institutes, SRCs and Schools should also avoid such statements. Statements must be unique and specific to the candidate and project. The following points are aspects you might consider including but may not be applicable to all applicants and are not exhaustive. Work closely with your Faculty/SRC/Institute to draft these sections and avoid any generic statements.

**Do NOT** simply copy all of these dot points and turn them into sentences, think about which ones relate to you and your project and use them to make the case as to why you as the candidate and your proposal should be supported.

Refer to the Grant Guidelines:

* Section *C5. The assessment criteria* as a guide when writing the Statement. Take note of the weighting assigned to each of the criteria.
* Section *C6* *How to Apply* provides information that must be included – a statement which:
1. *Indicates that this is a core or emerging research strength and describes the level of resources to be provided to support the successful DECRA Candidate (for example, project costs, PhD students, or salary top-up);*
2. *Details opportunities for the DECRA Candidate to demonstrate the level of independence required to be competitive for research and/or research and teaching pathways at Deakin during and after the project.*
3. *Is signed by the Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research).* Given this, margins **must not be less than 2.5cm**.

***OTHER ASPECTS TO DEMONSTRATE THE AREA OF CORE OR EMERGINING RESEARCH STRENGTH:***

**Tangible**

* Have you or your area received University funding that relates to or is associated with the project?
	+ LIEF support
	+ Internal fund scheme support
	+ Personnel Support, eg Alfred Deakin Postdoctoral Research Fellow who might be contributing to the project
	+ Other new facilities provided from central funds
	+ SRC priority area funding
* Have you participated in any specific early or mid-career development opportunity provided by the University?
* Do you have access to academic expertise, mentors, and technical staff?
* Do you have access to appropriate or even better, world class facilities?
* Has there been investment in new buildings, technology or equipment that will aid the research culture or environment
* Are there collaborative partnerships or arrangements that will contribute or support the project? For example, Centres of Excellence, Commonwealth Research Centres, partnerships or other networks and/or access to expertise
* Have you previously been funded via local Faculty/SRC/Institute schemes?
* Have you gained any other financial support from the Faculty/School/Institute/SRC?
* Were you selected to participate in any early or mid- career development programmes by the Faculty/School/Institute/SRC?
* Were you encouraged to apply for specific awards or by your Faculty/School/Institute/SRC?

*Deakin Co-Contribution*

Applicants have already received email notification regarding the support Deakin University is willing to provide. This consists of:

* **Research project support of $27,500 pa** provided for the term of the fellowship by the DVCR (pro rata; no carry forward);
* **For existing Deakin-funded academic staff, a supporting post-doctoral level academic** to undertake the recipient’s current duties, including teaching and/or research in a related area, may be provided by the hosting school or Institute using the salary savings\*;
* **Salary and on-cost funding gaps** between an applicant’s current level of appointment and the fellowship, will be met by the DVCR, subject to the hosting area providing the post-doctoral support above. In the case of external applicants, salary shortfalls and associated on-costs will be provided by the DVCR);
* **One HDR Scholarship** will be provided by the DVCR (where allowed by Deakin HDR supervisory guidelines).

**Note:** cash contributions only are included in the budget. In-kind contributions can be mentioned in D2 and E3.

*\*Salary savings:* the supporting position provided by the hosting school or Institute may be fractional to reflect the extent of the salary savings

**Intangible**

* Strong evidence of development of research culture at a local level
	+ Has there been any significant recruitment in recent times that will build research culture (particularly if it relates directly to your project)
	+ Has there been increased recruitment of postdoctoral staff which will support any students or ECRs who you will be using as part of your project
	+ Has your area been supportive in developing career pathways or options to build/support research in your discipline or for you specifically?
	+ Does your area reward and recognise research and support it via their workload model that values research contributions
	+ How does your area support students (if you have students participating in your project)
* Consider Deakin’s research strengths and priorities and the Strategic Research Centres
	+ Do any of these relate to your area?
* ERA scores—use these if they 4 or 5 and are relevant to your area.
* Are there strong partnerships supported by your area that can help your area of research or may make impact more likely
* Consider the University’s Strategic Plan – does your project link with Deakin’s strategic directions?
	+ Refer <http://www.deakin.edu.au/about-deakin/strategic-direction>
	+ Do not spend a lot of time here, but, if your research is part of one of DU’s core areas it should be mentioned.
* Has there been significant recruitment in the area that relates to the project?
	+ Recruitment to academic positions within schools is generally based on research activity and discipline expertise
* Have there been specific developments within the Faculty/School/Institute/SRC that will support or strengthen your proposal?
* Is there specific support available from your Faculty/School/Institute/SRC for this proposal?
* Does your project align with your Faculty/School/Institute/SRC Operational Plan?
* Does your project align with the strategic initiatives within the Faculty / School / Institute / SRC?