

# 2026 ARC Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA) Outcomes

## Key Findings

January 2026

This information should be read in conjunction with the ARC Selection Outcome Reports for 2026 DECRA, available from the ARC website.

# Executive Summary

- The ARC DECRA is awarded to outstanding early career researchers who are Australia's future research leaders.
- The DECRA Fellow already has promisingly strong credentials.
- This is evidenced through:
  - The applicant's track record (quality, innovation, leadership)
  - The high quality, innovative nature of the proposed research program
  - How the Fellow and program will add capability and innovation to Australia's research base.

# DECRA Scheme Overview

- Up to 200 DECRAAs awarded each year.
- The Award aims to advance promising early career researchers and enhance the diversity of career pathways in high-quality, supportive research environments.
- Funding for three years including:
  - Salary (\$126,693 including 30% on-costs – DE26 rate)
  - Up to \$50,000 per annum project funding.

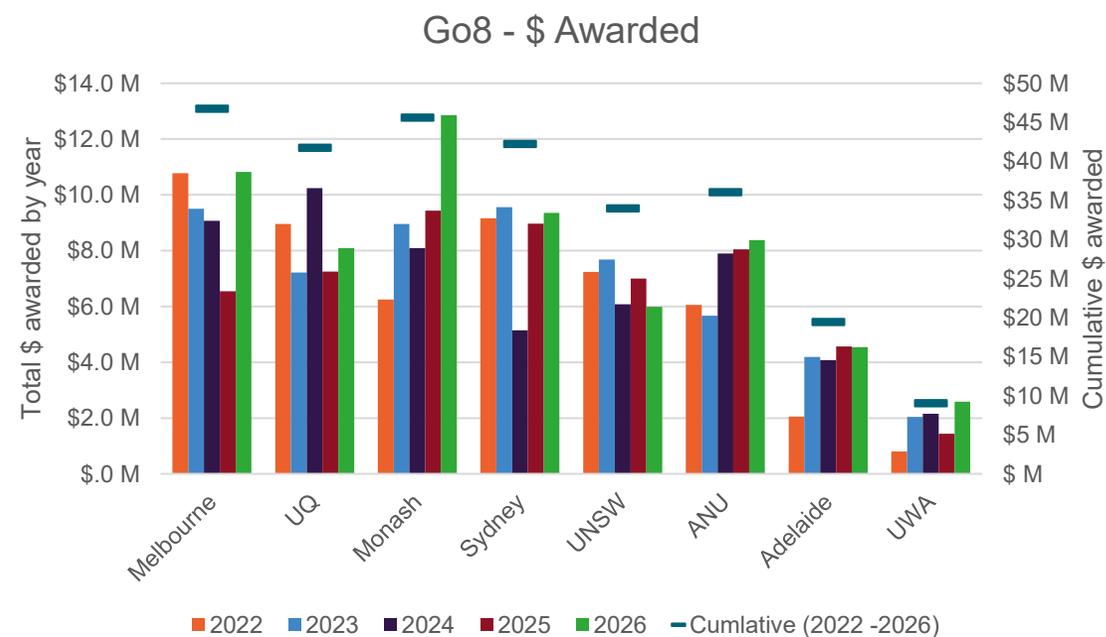
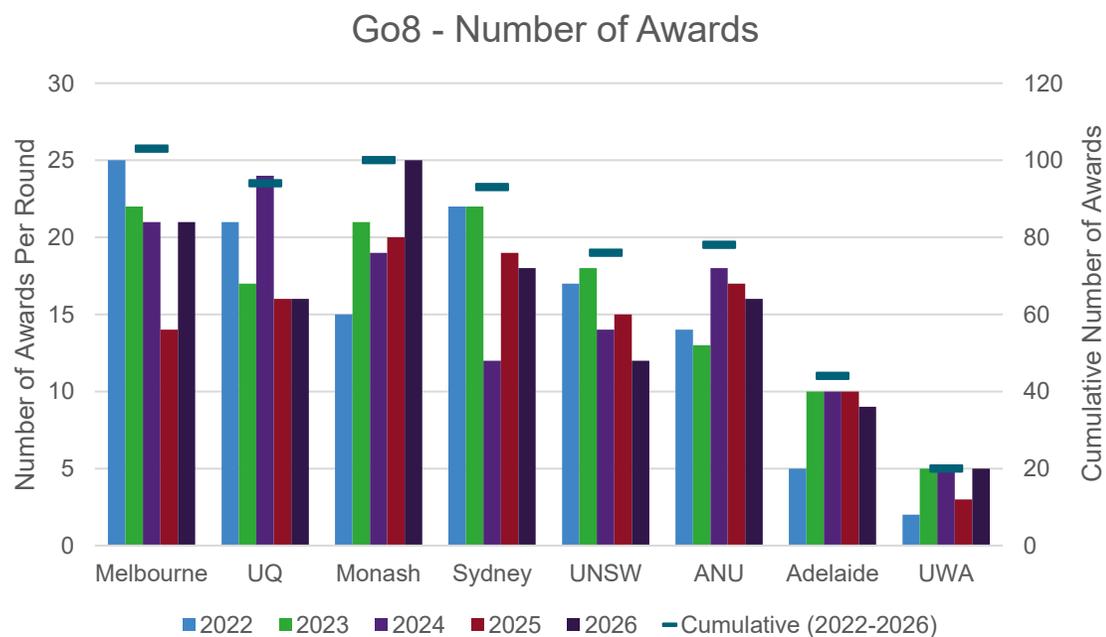
# DE26 Assessment Criteria

Assessment Criteria	Weighting
Investigator/Capability	35%
Project Quality and Innovation	35%
Benefit	15%
Feasibility	15%

The information presented in these slides is sourced from UQ data, the ARC and SciVal. UQ Supporting Guides and other helpful resources are available from the [UQ R&I web page](#).

# ARC DECRA – UQ Performance

- Nationally, and within the GO8, UQ ranked fifth for both number of awards (16) and funds awarded for DE26.
- UQ received \$8,097,018 in DE26.
- With 16 DE26s awarded UQ has the most DECRA awards cumulatively within the Go8 both by number of awards (341) and funding received (\$134,620,859) since the scheme commenced.

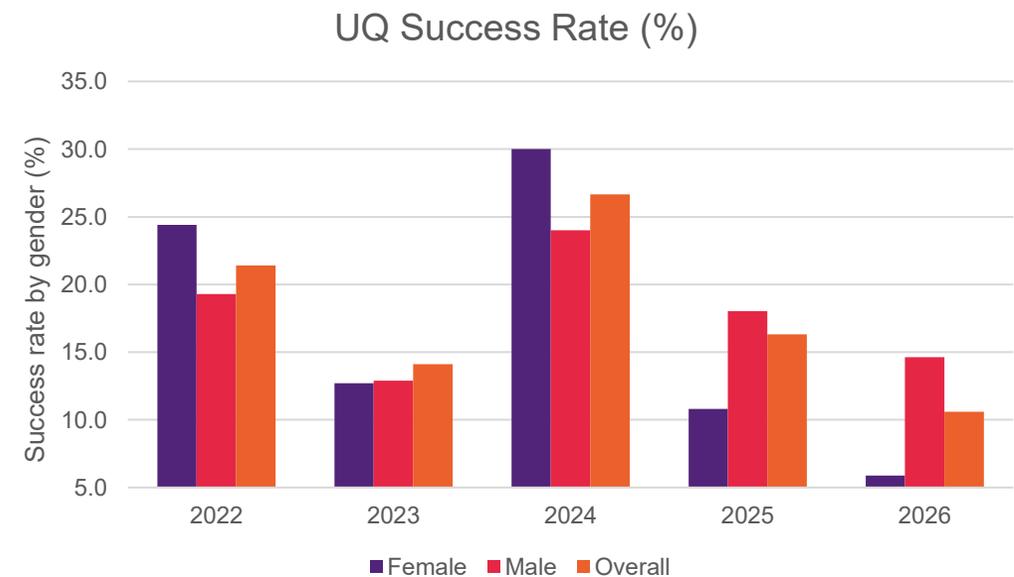
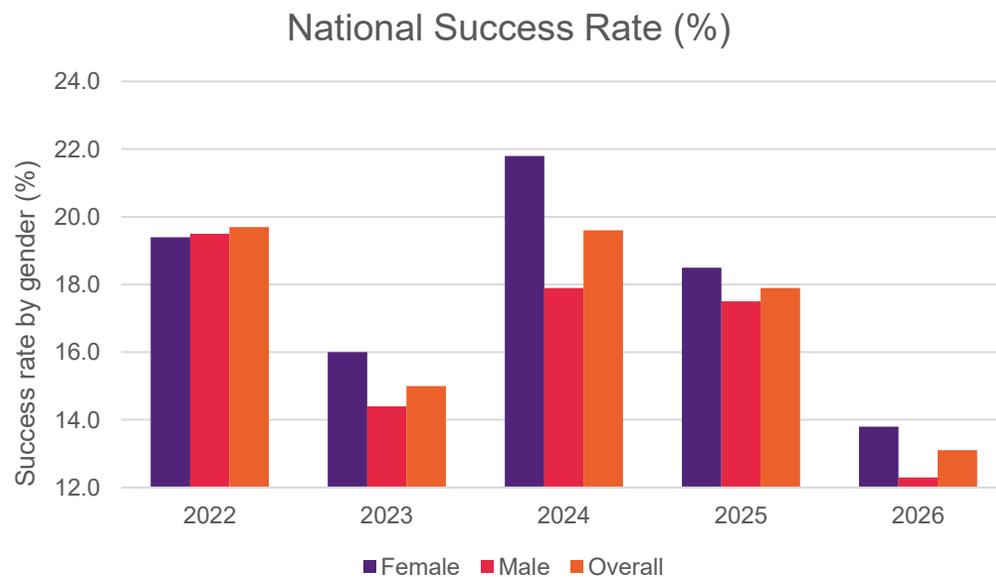


# DE26 – National success by gender

- Of the 1532 candidates who applied for a DECRA 2026, 40.2% were female, 57.4% were male and 2.3% specified \*other

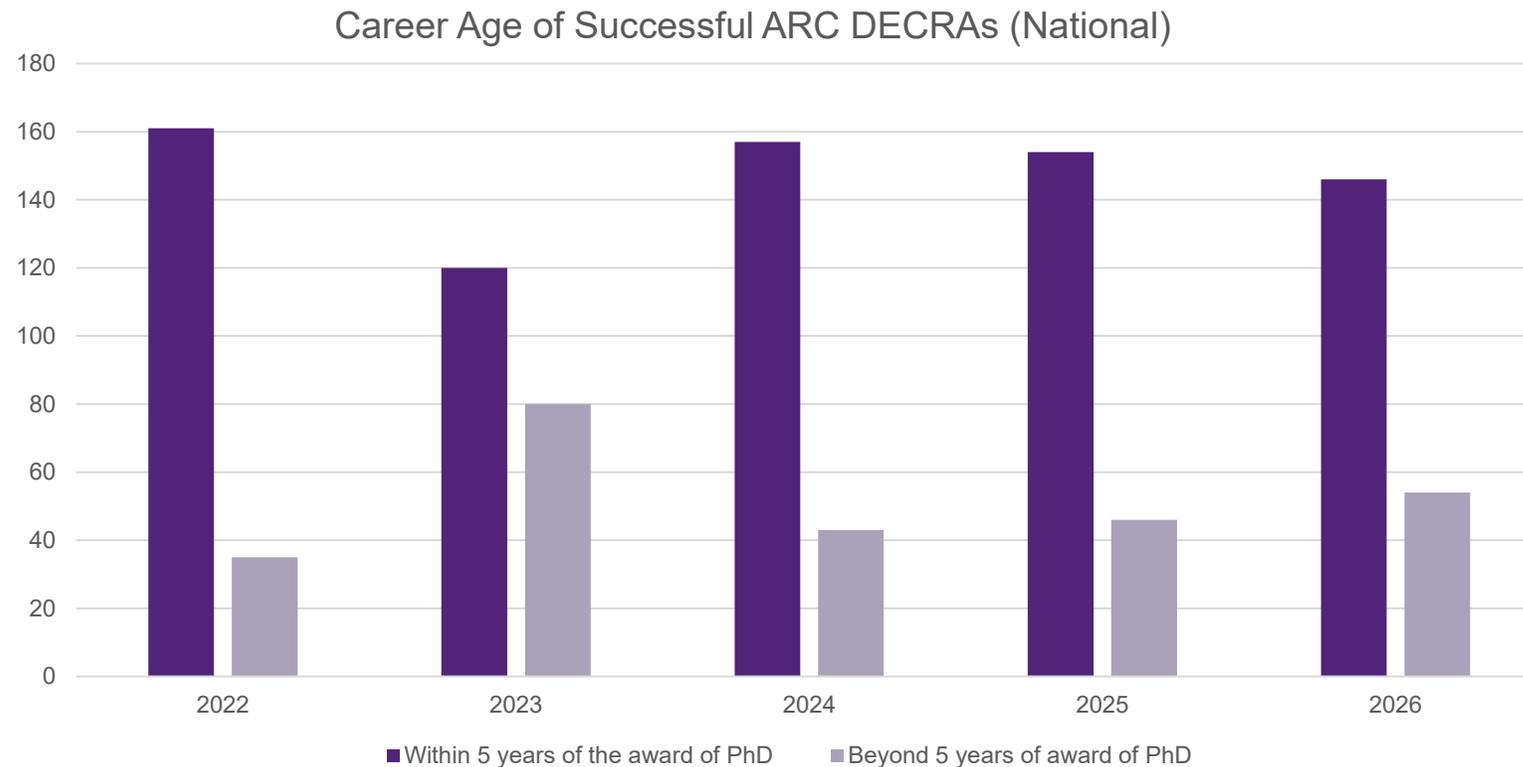
*\*Other includes Different term, Non-binary, Prefer not to answer, or Unspecified gender categories*

- Nationally, the success rate has averaged 13.8% for females, 12.3% for males.
- At UQ, the success rate has averaged 5.8% for females and 14.6% for males.



# DE26 – National success by career age

- Of the 200 fellowships awarded nationally in DE26, 146 candidates were within five years of PhD award.



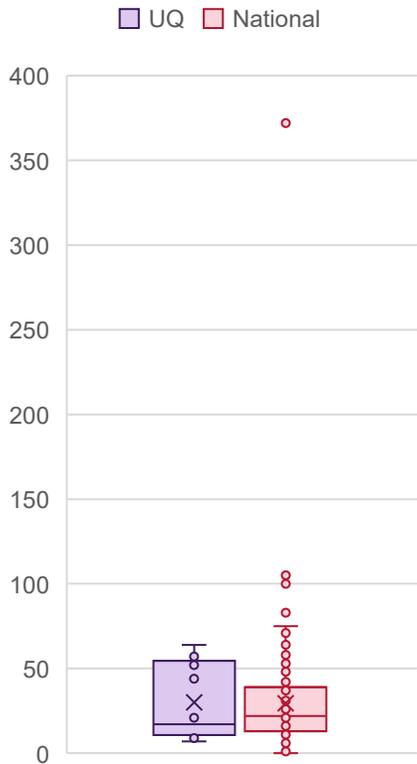
# DE26 Successful DECRA's – Publication Profile (National Data)

	<i>h</i> -index	Publications	Citations	Citations per publication	Field-Weighted Citation Impact
Average	13	29	1004	28.4	2.23
Median	11	22	476	20.3	1.78

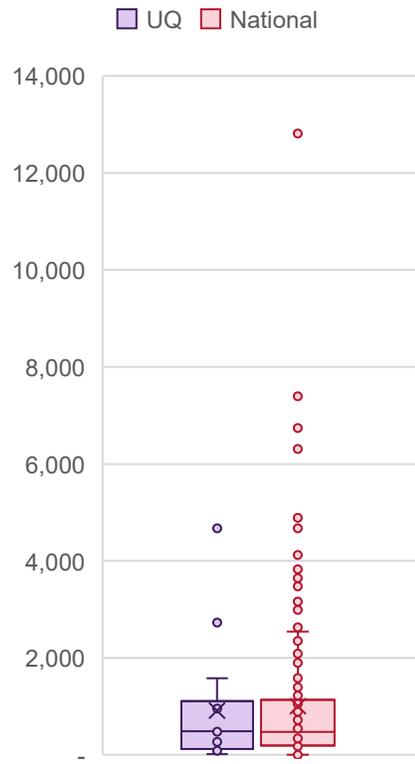
*\*Publication profile DE26 Fellows; UQ Library SciVal-sourced data (as at 28 January 2026)*

# DE26 Publication Benchmarking

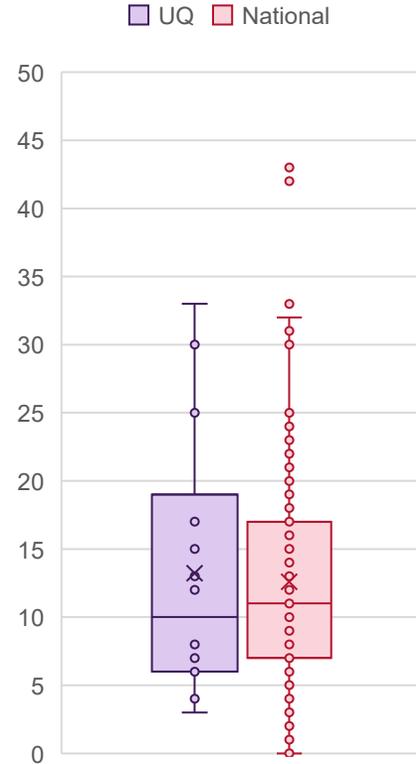
Scholarly Output



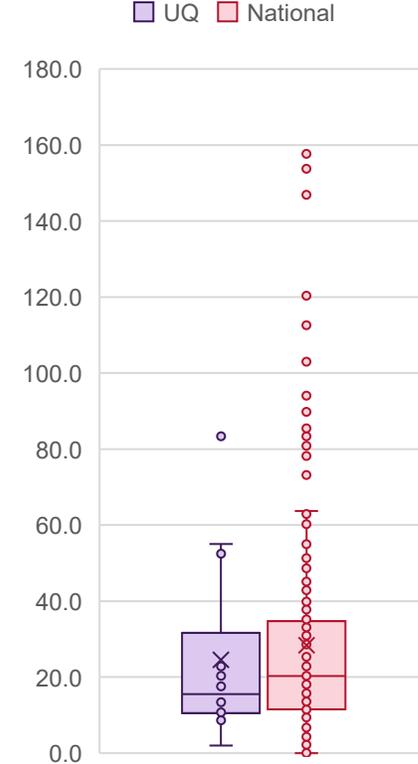
Citation Count



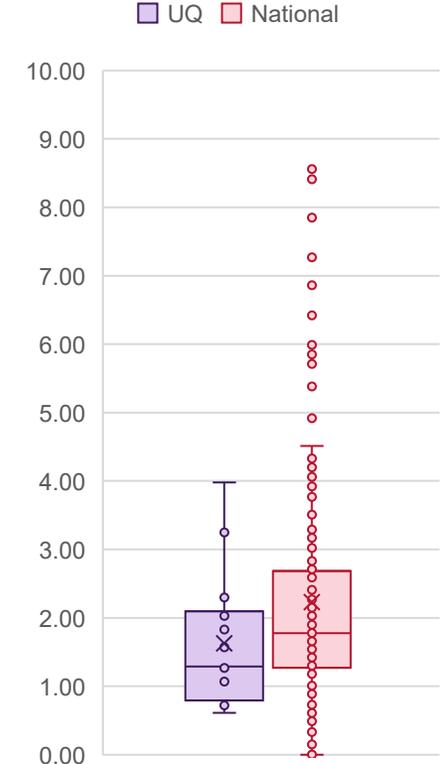
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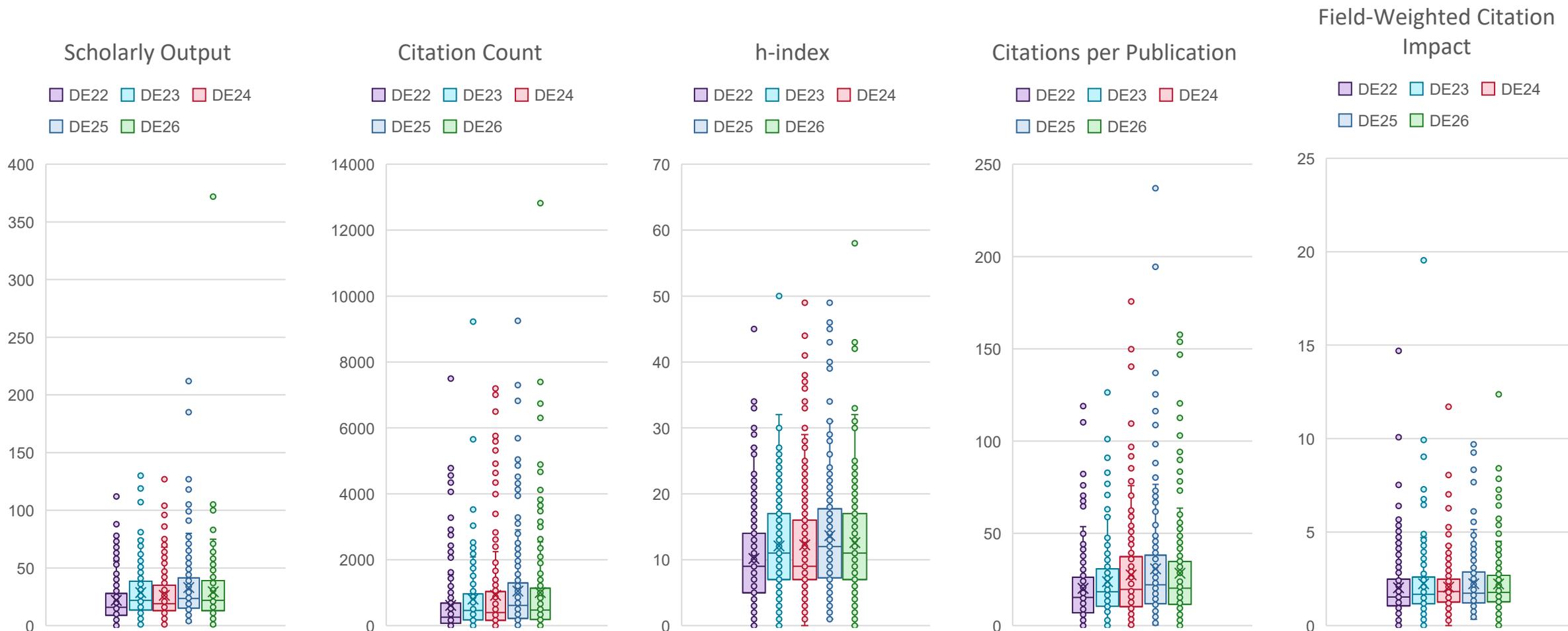


Field-Weighted Citation Impact



The box-and-whisker plot shows the minimum, first quartile, median, third quartile, and maximum;  $\bar{x}$  is the mean.

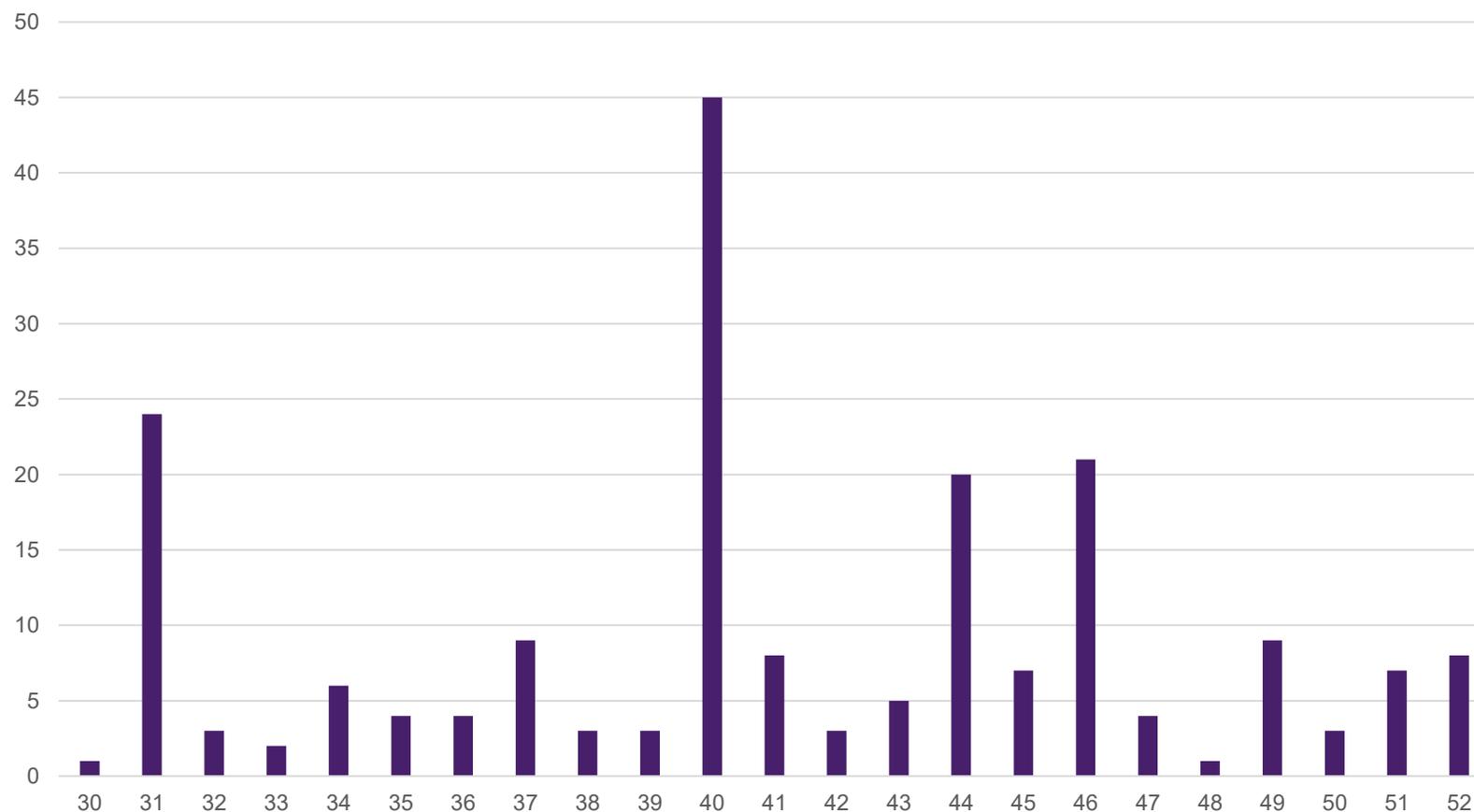
# DECRA Publication Benchmarking – yearly trends



The box-and-whisker plot shows the minimum, first quartile, median, third quartile, and maximum;  $x$  is the mean.

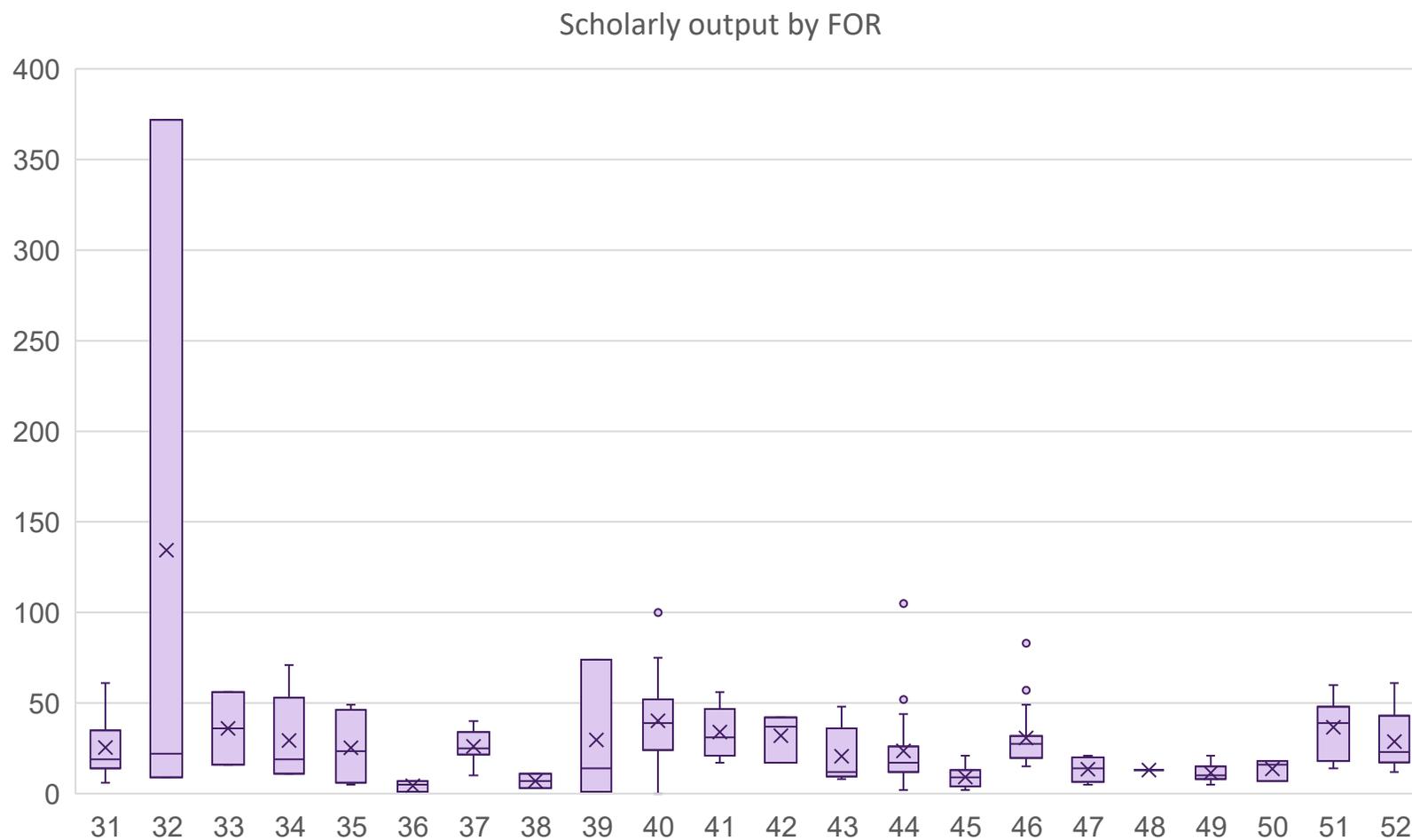
# DE26 by FOR

Number of DE26 per Primary FOR



FoR	FoR Division
30	Agricultural, Veterinary and Food Sciences
31	Biological Sciences
32	Biomedical and Clinical Sciences
33	Built Environment and Design
34	Chemical Sciences
35	Commerce, Management, Tourism and Services
36	Creative Arts and Writing
37	Earth Sciences
38	Economics
39	Education
40	Engineering
41	Environmental Sciences
42	Health Sciences
43	History, Heritage and Archaeology
44	Human Society
45	Indigenous Studies
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49	Mathematical Sciences
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51	Physical Sciences
52	Psychology

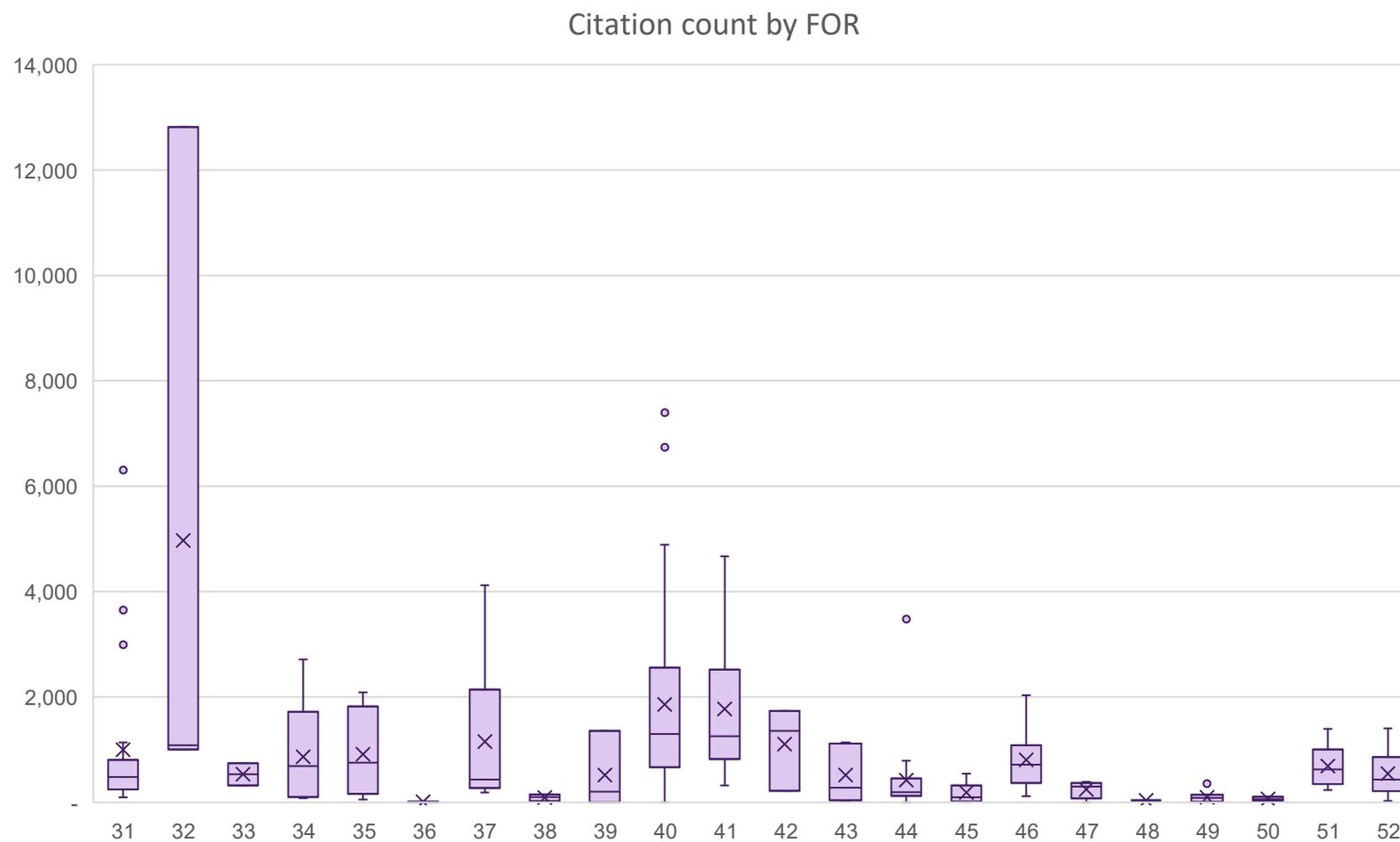
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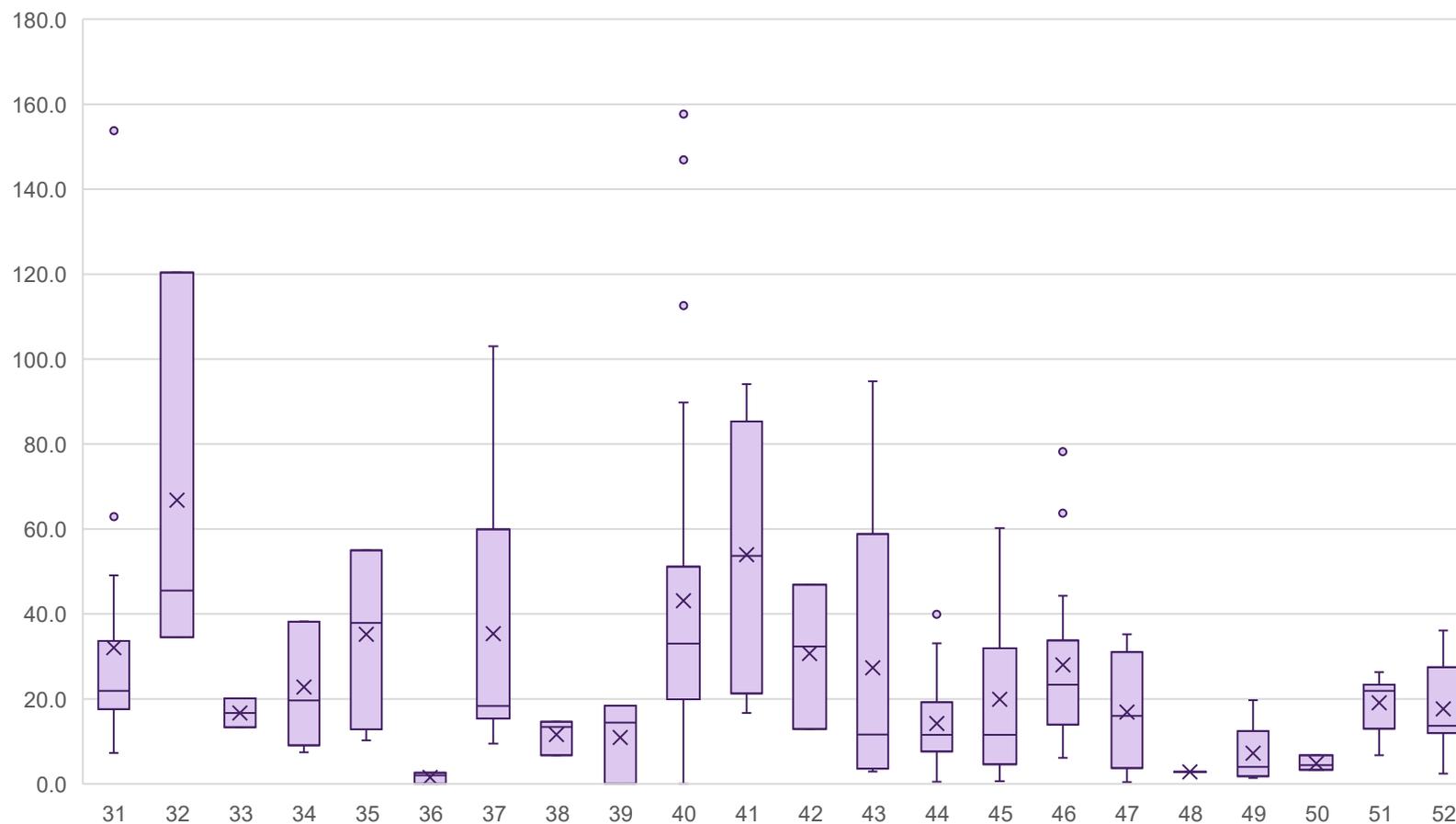


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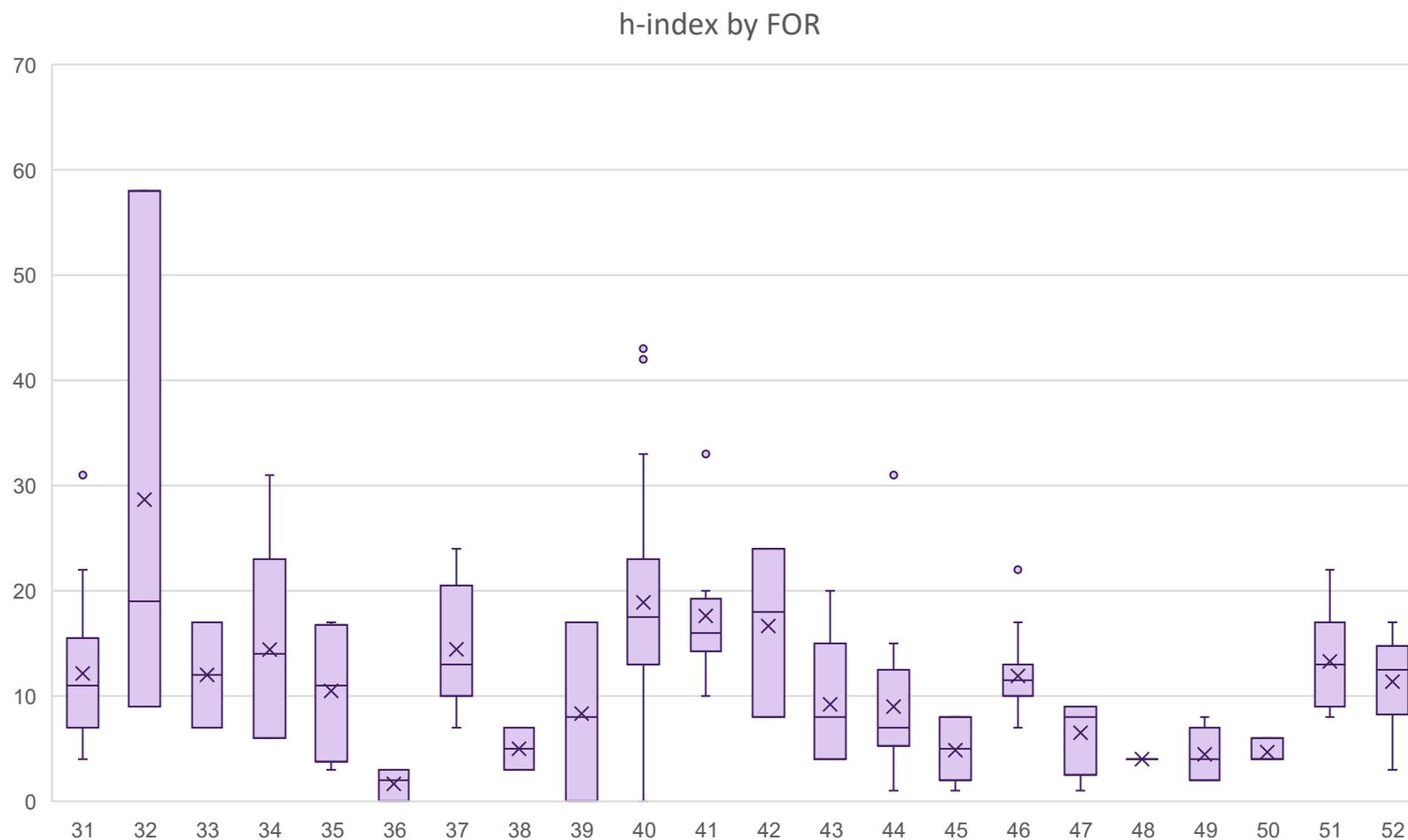
Citations per publication by FoR



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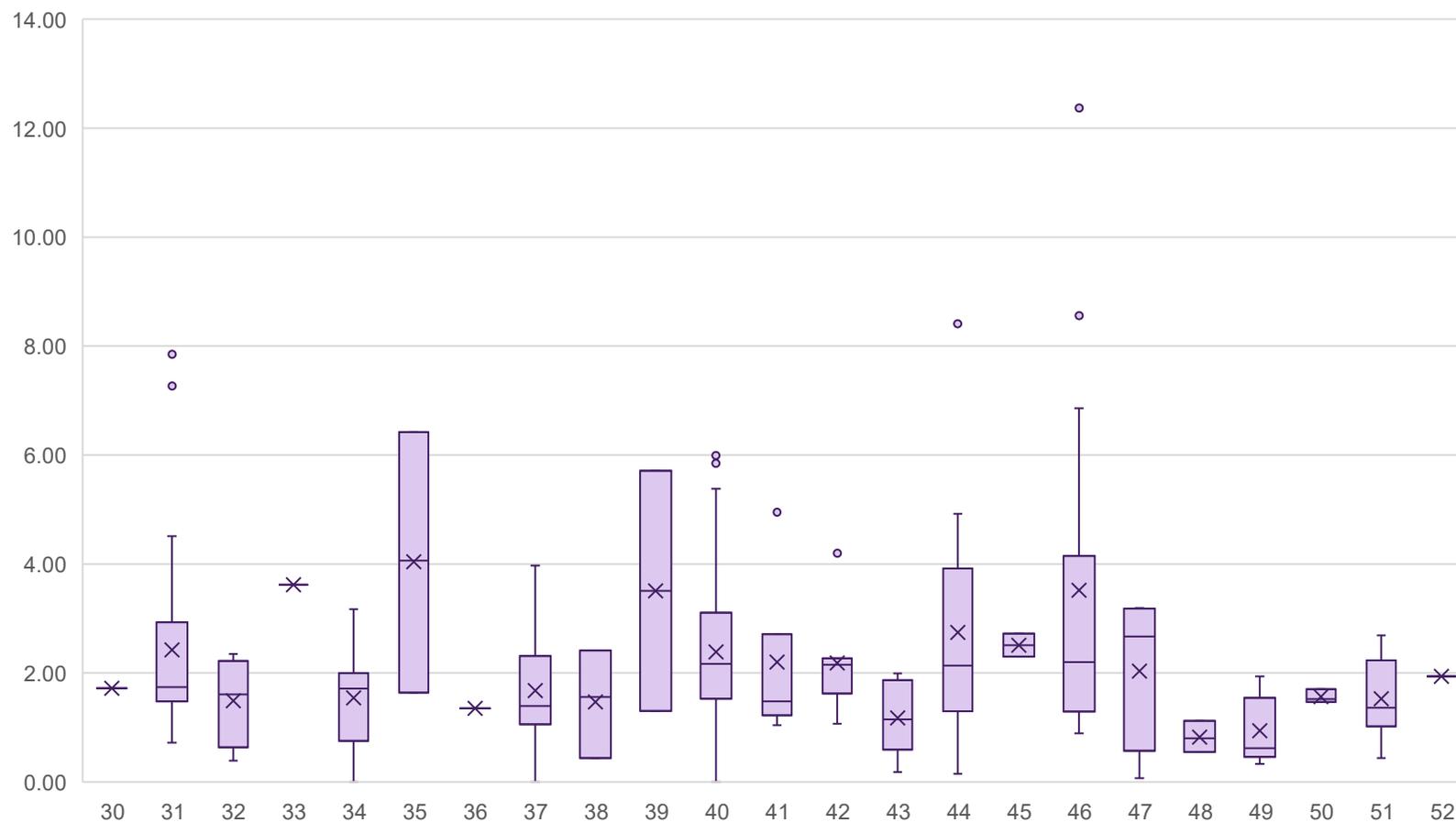


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# DE26 Publication Benchmarking by FoR

Field-Weighted Citation Impact by FoR



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# DE26 Publication Data – Overall publication Quality & Collaboration

	Output in Top 1% Citation Percentiles (field-weighted, %)	Output in Top 5% Citation Percentiles (field-weighted, %)	Output in Top 10% Citation Percentiles (field-weighted, %)	Publications in Q1 Journal Quartile by CiteScore (%)	International Collaboration (%)	Academic-Corporate Collaboration (%)
Average	4.4	16.1	26.1	76.9	49.2	2.4
Median	0	12.5	23.8	81.8	50	0

DECRA Awardees are trending to:

- having a strong outputs presence in the top 1% - 10% citation percentiles
- already having an international collaborative network

*\*Publication profile 2026 ARC DECRA Fellows; UQ Library SciVal-sourced data (as of 28 January 2026).*

# What else matters?

It is not just your publication record...

## ***You need to show leadership capabilities:***

- Where have you been and how have you made the most of these opportunities?
- How is the cumulative experience rolling together to position you as an emerging leader?
- How have you helped build capacity and capability beyond your immediate research project/group?
- How is your leadership being recognised – by your peers and beyond?

## ***You need to show that you are an emerging thought leader for Australia's research future:***

- How have your research contributions been recognised by your peers and beyond?
- How has it benefitted the community (peer and broad) to date?
- Demonstrate your capability through the significance and innovation of your approach and execution
- Show that you are practical in approach (feasibility) and the benefits to Australia because of you and your project

Significant guides and resources are available on the [UQ R&I templates for ARC DECRA applicants](#).

UQ R&I contacts:  
[ARC@research.uq.edu.au](mailto:ARC@research.uq.edu.au)

UQ R&I web page:

<https://research-support.uq.edu.au/resources-and-support/research-management/funding-schemes/australian-research-council-arc/arc-discovery-early-career-researcher-awards>