Developing a framework for a common understanding of research impact in Australia

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Publicly funded research agencies working group

in 2012/13:
Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies – AIATSIS (Canberra)
Australian Institute of Marine Science – AIMS (Townsville)
Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation – ANSTO (Sydney)
Australian Research Council – ARC (Canberra)
Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation – CSIRO (Canberra)
Defence Science and Technology Organisation – DSTO (Canberra)
National Health and Medical Research Council – NHMRC (Canberra)
National Measurement Institute – NMI (Sydney)

in 2014:
Geoscience Australia – GA (Canberra)
Bureau of Meteorology – BOM (Melbourne)

Web: www.arc.gov.au
Research Impact Principles and Framework

• *Our Definition of Research Impact*: Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the beyond contributions to academia.

• *Glossary of terms*

  http://www.arc.gov.au/general/impact.htm
Principles developed

• excellent research is the key
• use of common language
• respect diversity in research disciplines/sectors
• a set of common, cost effective and efficient parameters for data collection and reporting
• consultative approach with stakeholders
• encourage, recognise and reward in planning, monitoring and evaluating
WHY - Research Impact

• Why do we ask for information on research impact at all?

• Being accountable for the Commonwealth investment by PFRAs - value for money and public benefits

• The need to advocate project outcomes with evidence

• The scale of investment – projects vs Centres

• Explaining outcomes for all stakeholders - change management for research leaders (in / ex situ)

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Tips for Research Managers

Helping researchers to:

• develop ideas on potential outcomes at beginning of the project
• Collecting evidence according to scale of investment – evidence is not impact
• Effective communication and accessible language
• Good research design – capitalising on intended and unintended benefits
• Training tomorrow’s researchers – bench to bedside, industry, government - mentoring and coaching

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| Inputs                        | Activities                                      | Outputs                                                        | Outcomes                                                                                           | Benefits                                                                                       |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|                                                               |                                                                                                     |                                                                                               |
| Research income              | Research work and training                       | Publications (and e-pubs, e-research infrastructure) New items in national collections | Commercial products, licences, revenue. Companies – spin offs, start ups, joint ventures. Job creation | Economic, health, social, cultural, environmental, national security, quality of life, public policy or services |
|                              |                                                 |                                                               |                                                                                                     |                                                                                               |
| Staff                        | Workshop/conference organising Facility use     | Citation impact, Patents, Inventions                          | Implementation of programs and policy                                                              |                                                                                               |
| Infrastructure, collections  | Membership of learned societies and academies    | Policy briefings Engagement, media                            | Further leveraged funding                                                                         |                                                                                               |