HCA, impact and research infrastructure
Public good, civic culture and the commons

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Themes

ARC, impact and benefit

• Metrics, measures and academic judgement
  – excellence/impact/benefit
  – merit/worth

• Articulating the benefit of public investment in HCA
  – SEO (Socio-economic objective)
  – networks, national collections and the commons
  – Linkage and knowledge infrastructure
Research Impact

Research impact is the demonstrable contribution that research makes to the economy, society, culture, national security, public policy or services, health, the environment, or quality of life, beyond contributions to academia.

It is the showcase for key stakeholders (government, industry and community) of the real benefits of investment in Australian research activities.
Key issues about impact

- Increasing competition for research budget
- Need to demonstrate the value of research
- Types of Impact (peer, commercial, social, environmental, cultural)
- Diversity of outcomes from research disciplines and sector specificities
- How do you report it cost-effectively?
What the ARC currently asks universities to report

NCGP data collected—e.g. Centres of Excellence

- Scholarly impact—publications, citations, invitations, prizes and awards, prestigious panels
- Research income
- Research training
- Engagement, end users
- Commercial—patents, Plant Breeder Rights, commercialisation income, take up
- Collaboration with partner organisations
Proposal form changes

• The proposal forms for all schemes now have an added question about research impact which reflects the ARC’s recently developed policy* on this issue.

*Available on the arc web site.
Small steps

• Research Impact
  – Definition
  – Principles

• Release of the PFRA work on the ARC website:
  http://www.arc.gov.au/general/impact.htm
Initiative of Publicly Funded Research Agencies (PFRAs)

2012–13:
• AIATSIS
• Australian Institute of Marine Science
• Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation
• Australian Research Council
• CSIRO
• Defence Science and Technology Organisation
• NHMRC
• National Measurement Institute

2014:
• Geoscience Australia
• Bureau of Meteorology
PFRA initiative grounds for collaboration

- understand current arrangements
- return on investment (retrospective and prospective)
- common understanding of latest developments
- set of overarching principles
- common understanding of language
- identify common data requirements
- consider new data
- identify cost effective and efficient methodologies
- share experiences to promote research impact
Principles developed

- excellent research
- 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
CSIRO’S IMPACT FRAMEWORK

Inputs → Activities → Outputs → Outcomes → Impact

ENGAGEMENT

Planned work

What we control

Intended results

What we influence directly

What we influence indirectly

Feedback Loops

IMPACT ACTIVITY

Planning

Monitoring

Evaluation

Source: http://www.csiro.au/impact
Co-operative Research Centres

- The CRC Program supports industry-led research partnerships between publicly funded researchers, business and the community to address major long term challenges.
- Impact tool user guide—performance review
The *Impact Tool* to both forecast and assess performance throughout the life of a CRC

<table>
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<tr>
<th>RESOURCES</th>
<th>RESEARCH</th>
<th>RESULTS</th>
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<td><strong>INPUT</strong></td>
<td><strong>ACTIVITY</strong></td>
<td><strong>OUTPUTS</strong></td>
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| e.g. CRC grant, participant cash, participant in-kind contribution, staff years, etc. | e.g. By Research Program:  
  - research projects  
  - education  
  - SME engagement  
  - international engagement  
  - communications activities  
  - etc. | e.g. By Research Program:  
  - publication  
  - training package  
  - post-grad student completions  
  - prototype  
  - etc. |
| **USAGE** | **IMPACT** | **BENEFIT** |
| e.g. By Research Program:  
  - training package accessed by users  
  - completed students employed in industry  
  - process change implemented by companies  
  - etc. | e.g. By Research Program:  
  - output gain  
  - productivity improvement  
  - water saving  
  - health improvement  
  - higher quality workforce  
  - etc. | e.g. By Research Program:  
  - estimated value of impact multiplied by probability of impacts being achieved, less cost of delivery and usage |
Metrics, measures and academic judgement

Excellence/impact/benefit

Merit/worth
Articulating the benefit of public investment in HCA

Socio economic objectives
Total funding for HCA projects by SEO (all schemes, commencement year 2011 to 2014)

Note—HCA projects are those with a primary 4-digit FoR codes assigned by ARC to HCA.
Total Funding for HCA projects by SEO and FoR code (all schemes, 2011 to 2014)
Number of proposals received and success rate in Discovery Projects scheme, by SEO08 (commencement year 2002 to 2014)

Note—SEO08 codes for projects commencing prior to 2011 were translated from SEO98.
Networks, collaborations, national collections
Challenges

• tracking how research, engagement and knowledge transfer involves work across universities and other agencies, including museums, galleries, archives and museums;
• developing a shared understanding of the return on investment from provision of time, expertise, resources;
• pluralising understandings of research outputs to include curatorial work, creative work, exhibitions etc);
• consolidating research outputs into national resources: digital platforms, clearing houses, infrastructure;
• building in research training, internships, exchange
• recognising and encouraging international collaboration.
Proportion of HCA grants involving GLAM partners that involved PIs from a GLAM organisation (LP 201014)

LP13 and LP14 required that at least one PI from each PO be on each project.
Number of projects (all schemes) involving GLAM, by 2-digit FoR code (2008 to 2014)

- Biological Sciences
- History and Archaeology
- Environmental Sciences
- Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
- Earth Sciences
- Language, Communication and...
- Studies in Human Society
- Chemical Sciences
- Physical Sciences
- Philosophy and Religious Studies
- Law and Legal Studies
- Information and Computing Sciences
- Technology
- Built Environment and Design
- Agricultural and Veterinary Sciences
- Engineering
- Commerce, Management, Tourism...
- Psychology and Cognitive Sciences
Linkage, LIEF and knowledge infrastructure
Number of projects funded and success rate in HCA/SBE LIEF projects involving GLAM organisations

- No proposals submitted in 2009

Graph showing the number of projects funded and success rate from 2002 to 2014.
No. of projects funded and success rate in HCA/SBE LIEF projects relating to:
Clearinghouse, digital, museum, library, gallery, information, archive, online archive, searchable, knowledge platform, repository, interactive, interactivity