Excellence in Research for Australia

MERGE Festival – February 2011
What is ERA?

- ERA is an evaluation framework that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australia’s institutions;
- It provides a national stocktake of discipline-level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australia’s higher education institutions;
- It is designed to identify excellence across the full spectrum of research performance;
- ERA also identifies emerging research areas and opportunities for further development;
- It allows for comparison of Australia’s research nationally and internationally for all discipline areas.

Web: arc.gov.au  |  Email: info@arc.gov.au
The ERA Approach

1. Unit of Evaluation is the four-digit ANZSRC Field of Research code (ie. 157 possible Units of Evaluation); evaluation occurs at the two-digit level too
2. Evaluation by Research Evaluation Committees in discipline clusters; eight clusters in total
3. There is a minimum level of output to be considered ‘research active’ for evaluation in ERA
4. Evaluations informed by a ‘dashboard’ of discipline-specific indicators
5. Some peer review of outputs accessed through institutional repositories in some disciplines

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The ERA Clusters

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cluster</th>
<th>Sciences</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cluster 1</td>
<td>Physical, Chemical &amp; Earth Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster 2</td>
<td>Humanities and Creative Arts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster 3</td>
<td>Engineering and Environmental Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster 4</td>
<td>Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cluster 5</td>
<td>Mathematics, Information and Computing Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster 6</td>
<td>Biological and Biotechnological Sciences</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cluster 7</td>
<td>Biomedical and Clinical Health Sciences</td>
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<td>Cluster 8</td>
<td>Public and Allied Health Sciences</td>
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ERA Development 2008-2010

1. Engaged with other national systems and several major rounds of sector consultation
2. Creative Arts working party
3. Research Statements for non-traditional research outputs (NTROs)
4. Discipline specific indicators
5. Full trial in 2009 of HCA
   a. test of approach, including evaluation of NTROs
   b. feedback from sector, RECs, peer reviewers
The ERA Fields of Research

19 Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
1901 Art Theory and Criticism
1902 Film, Television and Digital Media
1903 Journalism and Professional Writing
1904 Performing Arts and Creative Writing
   > 190401 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Performing Arts
   > 190402 Creative Writing (incl. Playwriting)
   > 190403 Dance
   > 190404 Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
   > 190405 Māori Performing Arts
   > 190406 Music Composition
   > 190407 Music Performance
   > 190408 Music Therapy
   > 190409 Musicology and Ethnomusicology
   > 190410 Pacific Peoples Performing Arts
   > 190499 Performing Arts and Creative Writing not elsewhere classified
1905 Visual Arts and Crafts
1999 Other Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
### ERA Process Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volume &amp; Activity</th>
<th>Ranked Outlets</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citation Analysis</td>
<td>Esteem</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Income</td>
<td>Applied Measures</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

#### Peer Review

- International Benchmarks
- Research Evaluation Committees

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ERA 2010 Reviewers

• Expert review and specialist disciplinary knowledge were essential – not a mechanical process

• 8 Research Evaluation Committees

• 149 Australian and international REC members

• 500+ Peer Reviewers from Australia and overseas

• REC members also conducted peer review
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Rating</th>
<th>Descriptor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of outstanding performance <strong>well above world standard</strong> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance <strong>above world standard</strong> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of average performance <strong>at world standard</strong> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance <strong>below world standard</strong> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance <strong>well below world standard</strong> presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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ERA

Background Statement

Volume and Activity
Ranked Outlets
Peer Review
Citation Analysis
Esteem Measures
Research Income
Applied Measures

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Creative Arts Research in ERA

- Creative Works have been included as eligible types of research output
- Peer review NOT citation analysis
- 2-digit Background Statement
- Portfolio approach
- Research statement for peer review of non-traditional research outputs

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Research Statements

A Research Statement must accompany the research outputs that are selected for the peer review pool, which identifies the research component of the output. The statement must be a maximum of 250 words and address the following categories:

1. Research Background—Field, Context, Research Question.
2. Research Contribution—Innovation and New Knowledge.
Portfolios

- Group of individual works submitted separately which together constitute a single non-traditional research output.

- For example
  - collection of poems by a single author
  - group of photographs or paintings from an exhibit.

- Should demonstrate coherent research content.

- Must be accompanied by a research statement.
ERA 2010 outcomes: context

• ERA is a retrospective evaluation of research performance: 2003-2008 for research outputs, 2006-2008 for other data

• The ERA unit of evaluation is the discipline within the institution, not individual researchers or institutional units

• ERA does not rank institutions or units; each UoE is evaluated on its merits against the rating scale
ERA 2010 at a glance

- All 41 eligible institutions participated
- 2435 units of evaluation assessed at the two- and four-digit level
- 330,000 research outputs and 55,000 researchers represented
- 15,247 outputs submitted in 19 code
  - 10,902 non-traditional outputs (72%)
  - 307 portfolios submitted in 19 code
The National Report


- National profile of research activity

- Evaluation outcomes by FoR and institution

- Searchable results on-line by institution and by FoR
ERA 2012

- A new ERA 2012 section has been added to the ARC website – developments will be posted there

- Ranked journal and conference lists public consultation has commenced
Further information?

- Web:  www.arc.gov.au/era
- Email:  era@arc.gov.au