University of New South Wales
Vice Chancellor’s
Advisory Committee
20 July 2011

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council
Outline

• My UNSW Experience
• The Australian research policy context
• ARC Grants and Researcher Careers
• Overview of ERA and latest update
Government Investment in R&D 2011-12

- Business & Innovation: 24%
- Universities: 21%
- Other Government: 11%
- Investigator Driven: 4.5%
- ARC: 9%
- NHMRC: 8%
- CRCs: 2%
- Energy and the Environment: 5%
- Other Science: 4%
- Rural: 2%
- Other Health: 6%
Research Workforce Strategy

Review of research priorities

Powering Ideas

Mission based Compacts and block funding

Fostering research excellence, capacity building

Health of Australian Science Project

TEQSA

Web: arc.gov.au | Email: info@arc.gov.au
ARC Strategic Objectives

• To support excellence in *research*
• To build Australia’s research *capacity*
• To provide informed high quality *policy* advice to government
• To enhance research outcomes through effective *evaluation*
• To raise the *profile* of Australia’s research effort and be an effective advocate for its benefits
The ARC

National Competitive Grants Program
$810M in 11-12

Discovery & Fellowships
$502 M

Linkage & Centres
$308 M

Evaluation and Policy

Excellence in Research for Australia

• Statutory Agency established 2001
• Mission: to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally and benefit the community
• Fund direct costs to Universities and partners
• All disciplines except clinical medicine & dentistry
NCGP— the latest developments

- Evaluation of Linkage Projects
- Improvements to Peer Review (first stage)
- Changes to Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous
- New schemes (DECRA and RITA)
- Two additional Laureate Fellowships
- Removing Duplication
- Simplified NCGP Funding Rules

Web: arc.gov.au  Email: info@arc.gov.au
The ARC aims to:

- Provide opportunities for researchers at every career stage
- Foster a range of different cohorts

Strategic Objectives

- Researchers in industry
- Women
- Research-only
- Indigenous
- Teaching and research
Chief Investigator Cohort
ARC Project Grants 2001-2007

Discovery Projects: 51%
Linkage Projects: 29%
Overlap: both DP and LP: 20%
Responsibility for Research Careers

- MRIs
- NHMRC
- Universities
- Research Careers
- ARC
  - DECRAs
  - DORAs
  - ALFs

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# ERA 2010 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>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Research Income</td>
<td>Applied Measures</td>
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<td>Peer Review</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Please note – no weightings**

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**Research Evaluation Committee**

[Image: ERA 2010 National Report]

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What problem were we trying to solve?

• Demonstrate quality/value of investment in university research to government

• Raise the quality of Australian research effort
**Australian academic publishing practices**

- **Quartile 1**: highest impact
- **Quartile 4**: below median impact

Year that publications measure was introduced

Source: Butler 2002

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Scale of ERA 2010

• All 41 eligible institutions submitted data
• Over 330,000 unique research outputs
• 55,000+ researchers represented
• 2,435 units of evaluation assessed at 2 and 4-digit level
• 149 Research Evaluation Committee (REC) members
• 500+ Peer Reviewers
• All aggregated data in the *ERA 2010 National Report*.
ERA 2010 Rating by Cluster -
at, above, or well above world standard (i.e. 3s, 4s, & 5s)

- Public and Allied Health Sciences
- Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences
- Biomedical and Clinical Research
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- Biotechnology and Biological Sciences
- Physical Chemical and Earth Sciences
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
- Humanities and Creative Arts

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Changes for 2012

• Changes to the ranked journals and conferences
• Interdisciplinary Research
• Raising the Threshold
• Capturing Applied Research
• Eligibility for fractional staff
The refined journal indicator

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>University of Y</th>
<th>FoR0201</th>
<th>Astronomical and Space Sciences</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Journal Title</td>
<td>Papers</td>
<td>Contribution</td>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Advances in Space Research</td>
<td>171</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Applied Physics Letters</td>
<td>90</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Nature</td>
<td>72</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Astronomy and Astrophysics: a European journal</td>
<td>69</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Geophysical Research Letters</td>
<td>51</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mathematics and Computers in Simulation</td>
<td>27</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Please note that this is not based on any university's submission to ERA 2010*
ERA Outcomes

• Changes in research culture (focus on excellence)
• Sustainable Research Excellence (from 2012)
• Compacts and Institutional Planning
• Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency ??
• Research Training Scheme (from 2013)