

*RESEARCH in the national interest - enabling the future*



Australian Government  
Australian Research Council

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

**Professor Margaret Sheil  
CEO, Australian Research Council**

*Research*

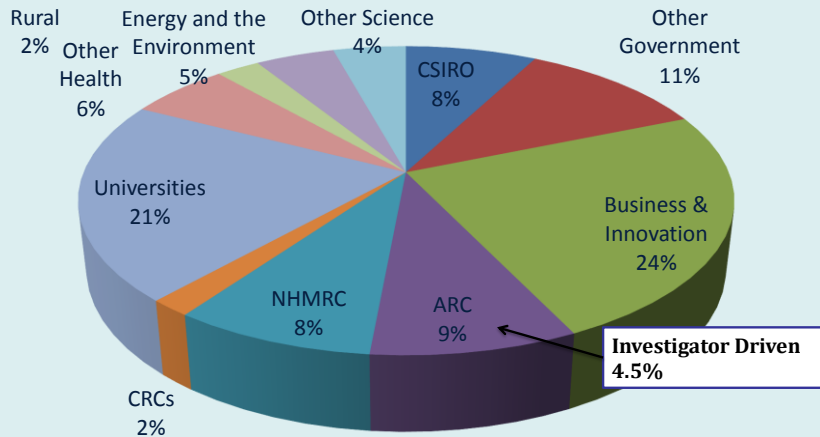
RESEARCH

## Outline

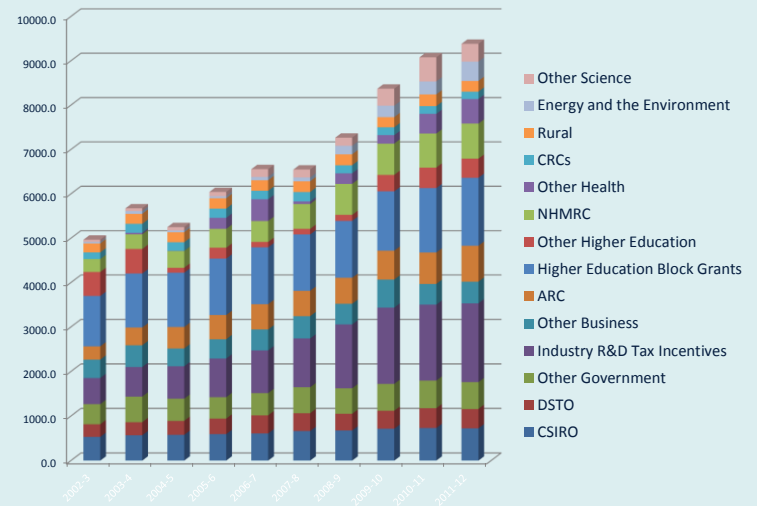
- My UNSW Experience
- The Australian research policy context
- ARC Grants and Researcher Careers
- Overview of ERA and latest update

Web: [arc.gov.au](http://arc.gov.au) | Email: [info@arc.gov.au](mailto:info@arc.gov.au)

### Government Investment in R&D 2011-12



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## 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

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## The ARC

**National Competitive Grants Program**  
\$810M in 11-12

**Evaluation and Policy**

**Discovery & Fellowships**  
\$502 M

**Linkage & Centres**  
\$308 M

**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

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## NCGP– the latest developments

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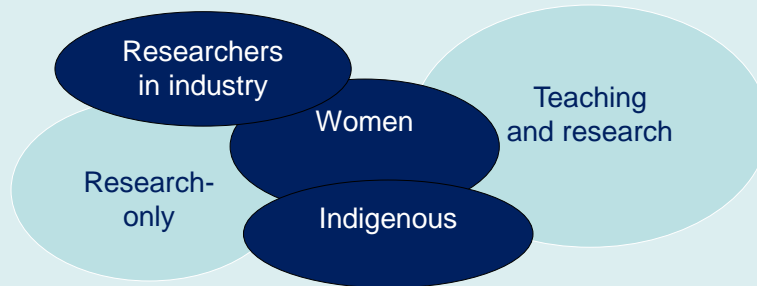
graph TD
    NCGP[NCGP] --- A[Removing Duplication]
    NCGP --- B[Simplified NCGP Funding Rules]
    NCGP --- C[Two additional Laureate Fellowships]
    NCGP --- D[New schemes (DECRA and RITA)]
    NCGP --- E[Changes to Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous]
    NCGP --- F[Improvements to Peer Review (first stage)]
    NCGP --- G[Evaluation of Linkage Projects]
  
```

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## Strategic Objectives

### The ARC aims to:

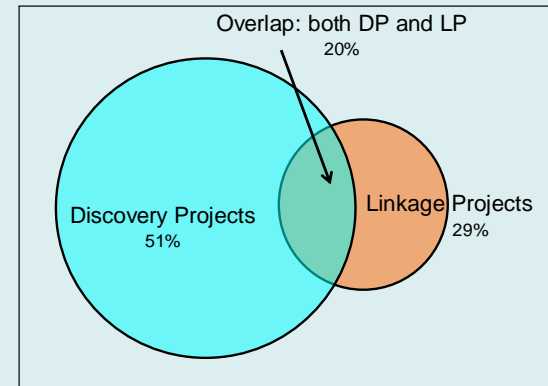
- Provide opportunities for researchers at every career stage
- Foster a range of different cohorts



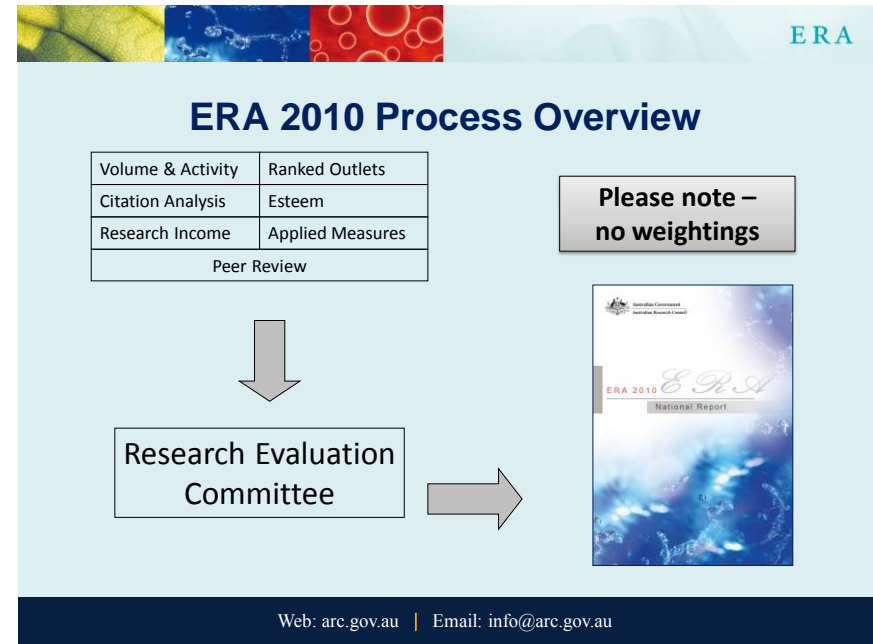
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## Chief Investigator Cohort

ARC Project Grants 2001-2007



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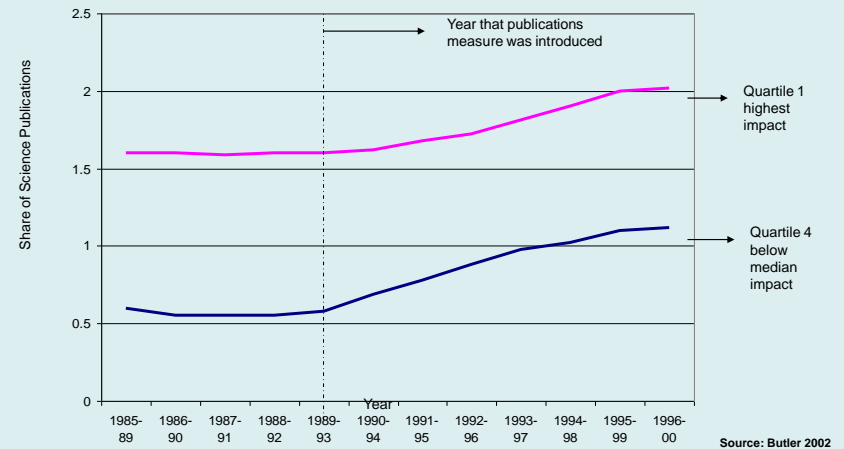
## What problem were we trying to solve?

- Demonstrate quality/value of investment in university research to government
- Raise the quality of Australian research effort


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## Australian academic publishing practices



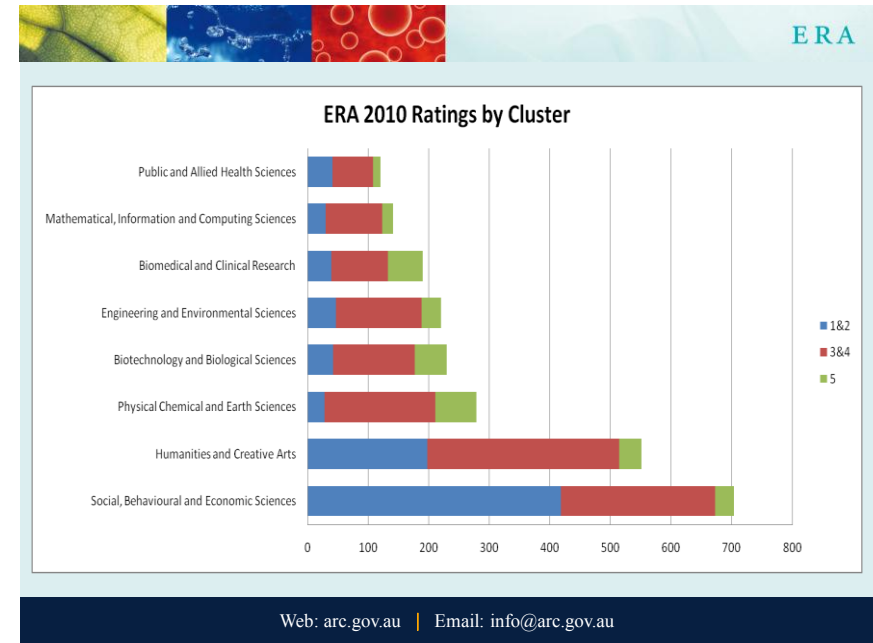
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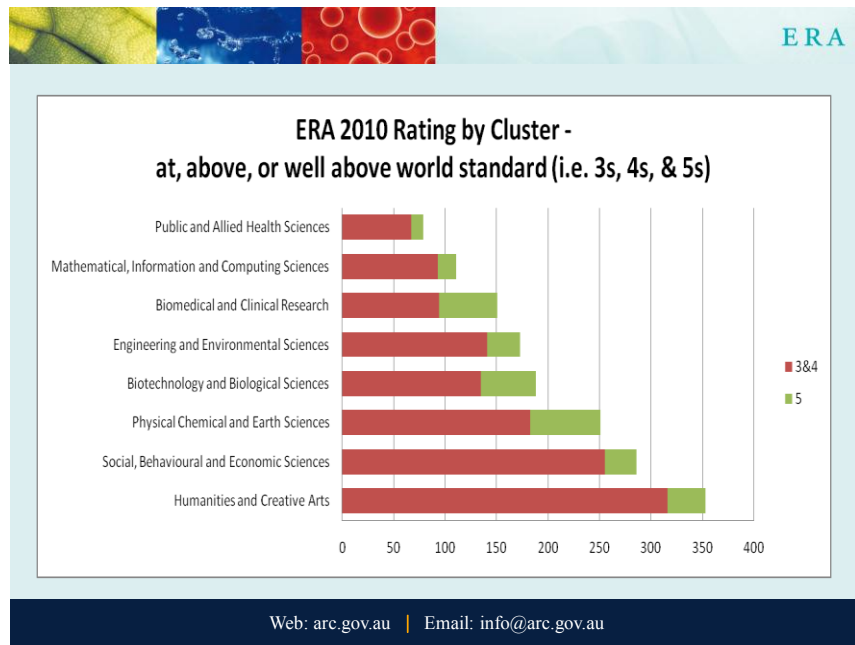


## Scale of ERA 2010

- 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*.

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ERA

## Changes for 2012

- Changes to the ranked journals and conferences
- Interdisciplinary Research
- Raising the Threshold
- Capturing Applied Research
- Eligibility for fractional staff

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### The refined journal indicator

	University of Y	FoR0201	Astronomical and Space Sciences	
			Papers	Contribution
1	Advances in Space Research	171	27%	27%
2	Applied Physics Letters	90	14%	41%
3	Nature	72	11%	52%
4	Astronomy and Astrophysics: a European journal	69	11%	63%
5	Geophysical Research Letters	51	8%	71%
6	Mathematics and Computers in Simulation	27	4%	75%
<p><i>Please note that this is not based on any university's submission to ERA 2010</i></p>				

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### 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)

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