Outline

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

- 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)
- Removing Duplication
- Simplified NCGP Funding Rules
- Two additional Laureate Fellowships
The ARC aims to:

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

**Strategic Objectives**

- Researchers in industry
- Women
- 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
- Futures
- ARC
  - DECRAs
  - DORAs
  - ALFs

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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<tr>
<td>Peer Review</td>
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</table>

Please note – no weightings

Research Evaluation Committee
What problem were we trying to solve?

- Demonstrate quality/value of investment in university research to government
- Raise the quality of Australian research effort
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*. 
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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<td>1</td>
<td>Advances in Space Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Applied Physics Letters</td>
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<td>3</td>
<td>Nature</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Astronomy and Astrophysics: a European journal</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Geophysical Research Letters</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Mathematics and Computers in Simulation</td>
<td>27</td>
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</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)
University of New South Wales
Vice Chancellor’s
Advisory Committee
20 July 2011

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council