



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

ARC Schemes & Peer Review

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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**

- Support research excellence
- Funding for facilities and equipment that researchers need to be internationally competitive
- Support future researchers
- Provide incentives for partnerships and collaboration nationally and internationally



NCGP Programs & Schemes

Discovery Program

Discovery Projects + DECRA

Discovery Indigenous

Future Fellowships

Australian Laureate Fellowships

Linkage Program

Linkage Projects

*Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment
and Facilities*

*Linkage Learned Academies
Special Projects*

ARC Changes

- *Changed definition of Research*...creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative.
- *New Funding Rule format* – all schemes
- *New Schemes* – DP/DORA, DECRA, DI, LP/LIEF?
- *New Peer Review process* – A-E system for all schemes from 2011 onwards
- *Improved IT system* – RMS interface, new modules in build
- *New medical and dental definition* – for 2012

Major ARC Schemes

- *Discovery Projects (new in 2011, DORA)* – (3 years) [22.0%]
 - Excellent fundamental research by individuals and teams
- *Discovery Indigenous (new in 2011, DIA)* – (3 years) [?]
 - Develop the research expertise of indigenous Australians
- *Australian Laureate Fellowships* – (5 years) [12.2%]
 - For outstanding researchers of international repute
- *Future Fellows* – (4 years) [26.4%]
 - For outstanding mid-career Australian researchers and international researchers
- *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (new in 2011)* – (3 years) [?]
 - Support and advance promising early career researchers

- *Linkage Projects (tbd in 2012)* – (up to 5 years) [40.9%]
 - Collaborative research between universities and industry/government/community
- *Linkage infrastructure, equipment and facilities (LIEF)* – (up to 5 years) [47.3%]
 - Collaboration across universities & partner organisations to fund major research infrastructure

ARC Peer Review Changes

- ARC consultation paper released in Sept 2009, 5 week consultation period; internal/external workshops
- Major elements
 - Panel structures
 - Assessor structure (hierarchy and database)
 - Assessment process
- Philosophy – from “expert review informed by peers” to ‘peer review informed by experts’

Assessment of Proposals

- Qualitative assessment (grades (A-E) + comments by specialist assessors); rejoinders; focus on ROPE
- Moderation and ordering at Panel Level (based on ~3-5 assessments, confirmation and recommendation of A-C ranking); ability to assess interdisciplinary projects across sub-Panels
- Comparative overview of all recommended proposals and final recommendations and funding at ARC College



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Excellence in Research for Australia



ERA 2012
ACDS Meeting
17 October 2011

ERA – ‘old’ news

 ERA

Objectives of ERA

- Establish an **evaluation framework** that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australia's institutions;
- Provide a **national stocktake** of discipline-level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australia's higher education institutions;
- Identify **excellence** across the full spectrum of research performance;
- Identify **emerging research areas** and opportunities for further development;
- Allow for **comparison** of Australia's research nationally and **internationally** for all discipline areas.

The ERA Unit of Evaluation

- The **baseline** - the Discipline in an institution = Four-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) eg.,
2101 Archaeology
- The **higher perspective** – the division in an institution = Two-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) eg.,
21 History and Archaeology
- The ERA Unit is not about the department nor the individual researcher



ERA 2010 Myths...

 ERA

Now for the “new” news



Consultations for ERA 2012

- ERA Public Consultation (March -April 2011) – open consultation on issues including reporting, indicators, eligibility, discipline matrix
- Outreach sessions with institutions and peak bodies
- Detailed feedback from ERA 2010 REC members and peer reviewers
- Feedback from institutions on submission processes
- Comment period on draft Submission Guidelines and Discipline Matrix (July 2011)

Changes to journals and conferences

- Refined journal and conference indicator for ERA 2012
- Ranks will not be used, instead outputs profiled by most frequent journals and conferences in the UoE, with drilldowns available as in 2010
- ARC will still produce a journal list – will not include rankings but will include FoR codes for citation analysis
- Strong feedback that ranked lists were having negative consequences in the sector
- ARC analysis suggested a refined indicator would produce improved results while removing negative consequences

The refined journal indicator

Example of the draft refined journal indicator for FoR 1801 for University X				
	University of X	1801	Law	
	Journal title	Papers	Contribution	Cumulative
1	Journal of Law and Medicine	27	6%	6%
2	Public Law Review	27	6%	12%
3	Australian Journal of Administrative Law	24	5%	17%
4	Law in Context	18	4%	21%
5	Australian Journal of Family Law	15	3%	24%
6	Company and Securities Law Journal	12	3%	26%
7	Torts Law Journal	9	2%	28%
8	Contemporary Issues in Law	9	2%	30%
9	Law and Policy	9	2%	32%
10	International Journal of the Legal Profession	9	2%	34%
11	Australian Journal of Corporate Law	9	2%	36%
12	Australian Journal of Labour Law	9	2%	38%
13	Journal of Judicial Administration	9	2%	40%
14	Federal Law Review	9	2%	42%
15	Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy	6	1%	43%
16	Forensic Science International	6	1%	45%
17	Legal Theory	6	1%	46%
18	Revenue Law Journal	6	1%	47%
19	AIAL National Lecture Series on Administrative Law	6	1%	48%
20	Intertax: international tax review	6	1%	50%
	Total	465		
<i>Please note that this is not based on any university's submission to ERA 2010</i>				

Interdisciplinary and enabling research (the 'Clawback'...)

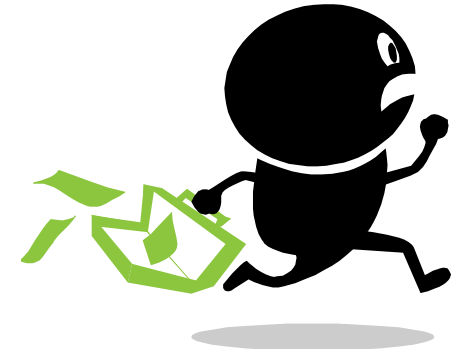
- Journal articles with $\geq 66\%$ content in a discipline can be apportioned to that discipline
- Approach was successfully trialled in 2010 for Mathematics
- Allows stronger recognition of interdisciplinary and applied research
- Aligns journals with other output types



Other changes for ERA 2012

- Eligibility of fractional staff
- Patents, plant breeder's rights and registered designs assigned to individuals now eligible for submission
- Raised threshold for peer review disciplines
- Cluster structure revised in the light of information from ERA 2010
- Some adjustments to indicator sets used in the discipline matrix
- Construction of the pool of outputs for peer review (30%)

ERA 2012 – still to do



- Recruitment of Research Evaluation Committees
- Expansion of peer reviewer pool
- Citation data provider has been announced – Scopus
- Submission Guidelines and technical documentation have been released
- Submission and beyond

Further information

- **Web:** www.arc.gov.au/era
- **Email:** era@arc.gov.au
- **Hotline:** **02 6287 6755**