



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Financial Review
Higher Education Conference 2011
29 June 2011

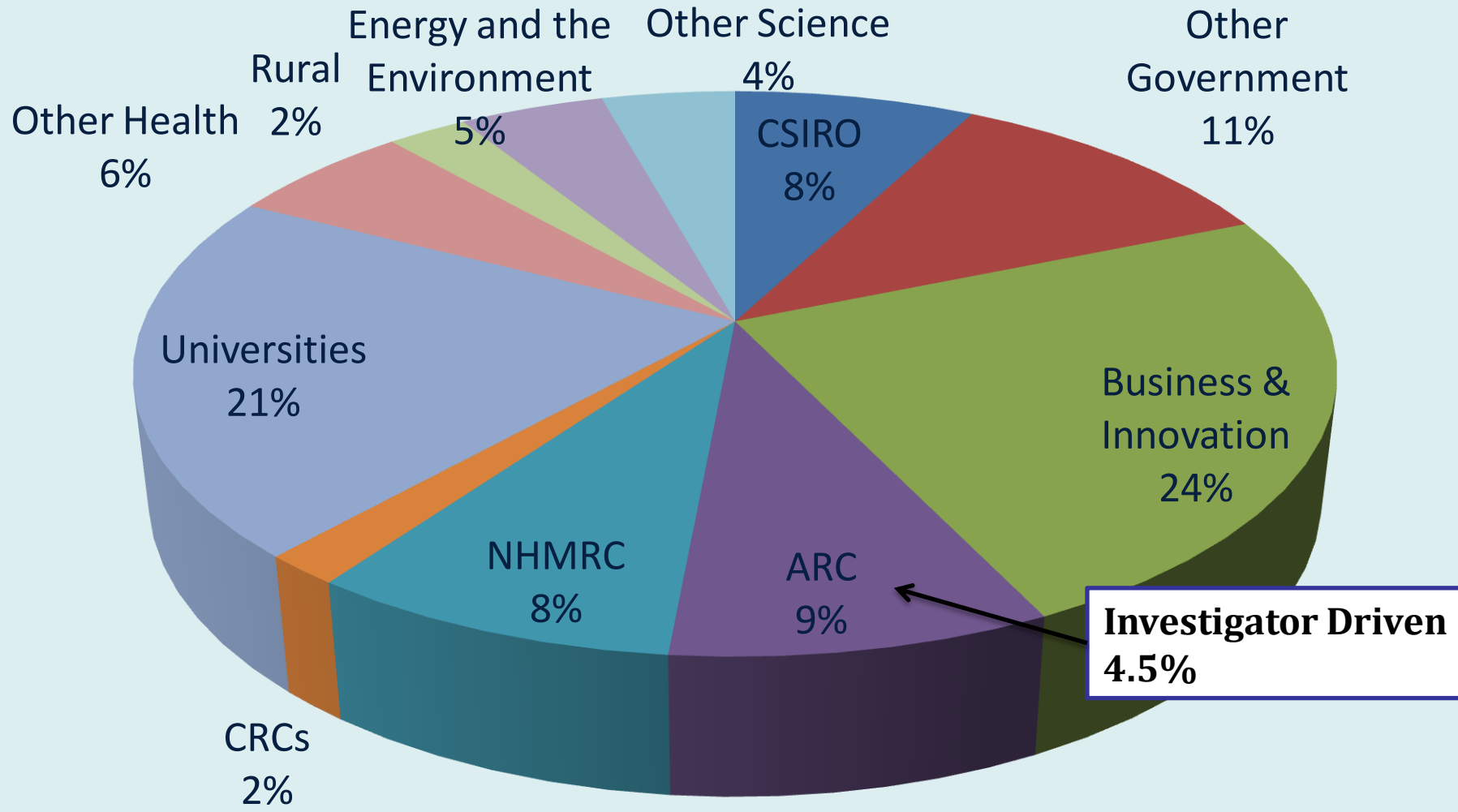
Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council

Research

The Research Agenda?

- *An Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century*
- Research excellence in an international context
- Research workforce strategy
- Strategic research investment and priorities
- Links and collaboration – nationally and internationally

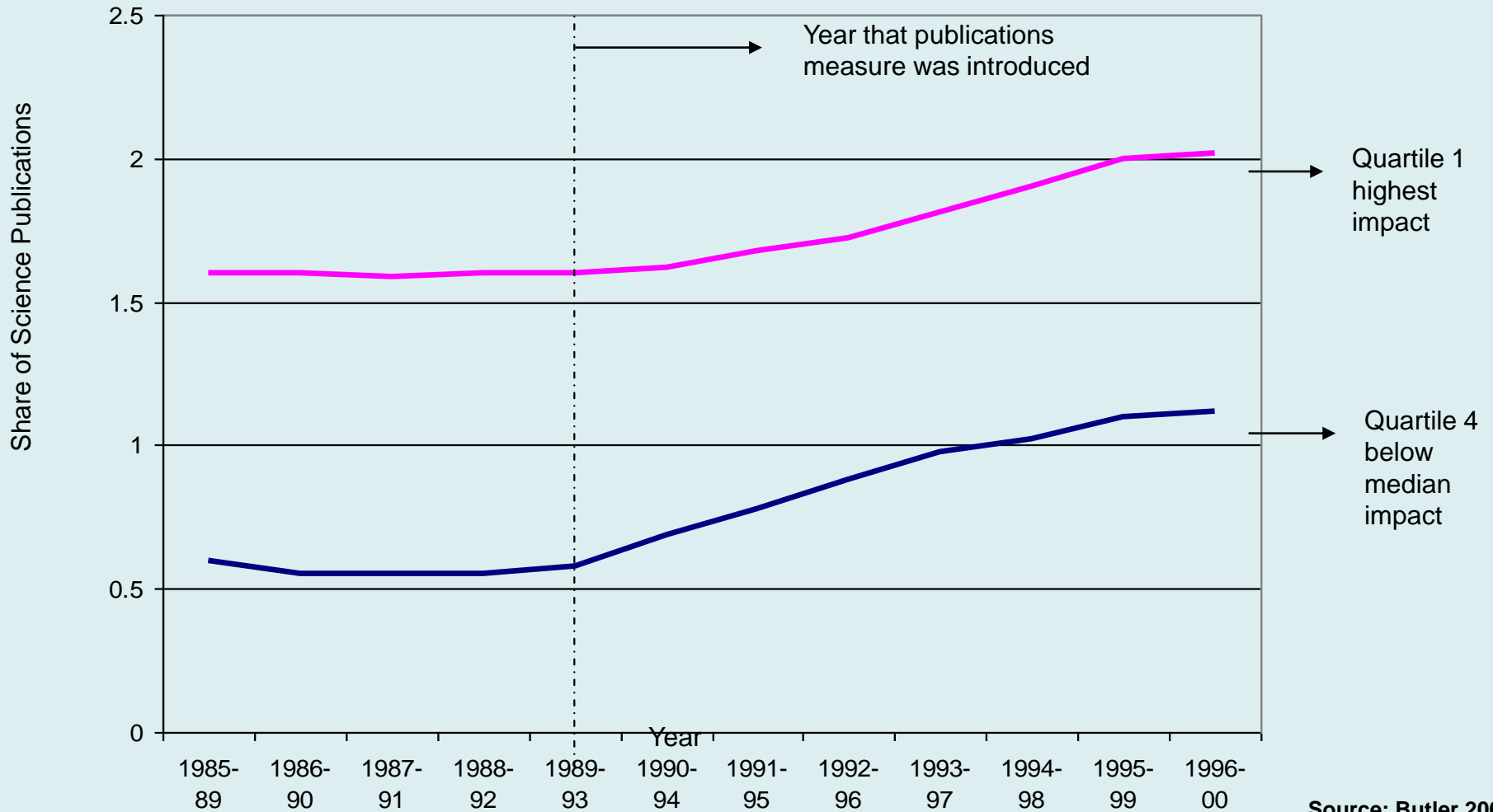
Government Investment in Research 2011-12



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



Source: Butler 2002

Excellence in Research for Australia

- 2007 New Government elected with a commitment to replaces RQF with a metrics based approach
- 2008 ARC given responsibility for quality framework
- 2008 Develop policy and case for funding and vice versa
- 2009 ERA Trial in physical sciences and humanities and creative arts
- 2010 ERA Full Evaluation
- 2011 Refinements to framework
- 2012 Next ERA round

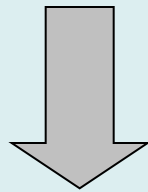
Scale of ERA 2010

- All 41 eligible institutions submitted data
- Over 330,000 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

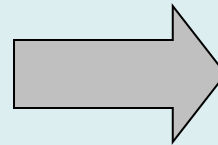
All aggregated data in the *ERA 2010 National Report*.

ERA Process Overview

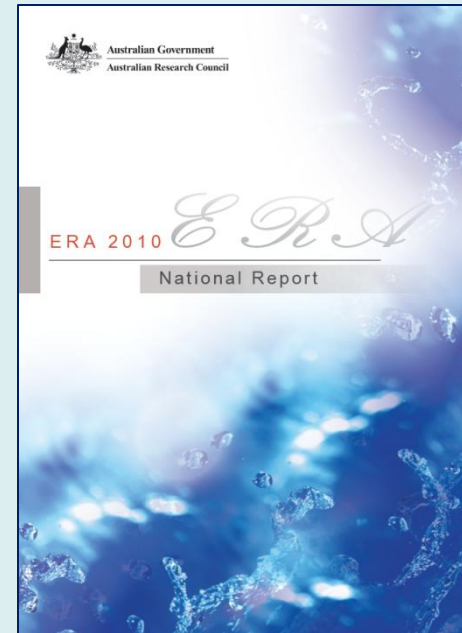
- Volume and Activity
- Journal Quality
- Citation analysis or peer review
- Research Income
- Applied Measures
- Esteem



Research Evaluation
Committee



**Please note –
no weightings**



Strengths in Australian universities

- Astronomical and Space Sciences
- Optical Physics
- Quantum Physics
- Macromolecular & Materials Chemistry
- Physical & Structural Chemistry
- Geology
- Ecology
- Evolutionary Biology
- Plant Biology
- Zoology
- Clinical Sciences
- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Historical Studies
- Cardiovascular Medicine and Haematology
- Human Movement and Sports Science
- Immunology
- Oncology and Carcinogenesis
- Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- Medical Physiology

Gaps

- Agriculture, Land and Farm Management
- Automotive Engineering
- Maritime Engineering
- Engineering Design
- Complementary and Alternative Medicine

Pockets

- Classical Physics
- Aerospace Engineering
- Transportation and Freight

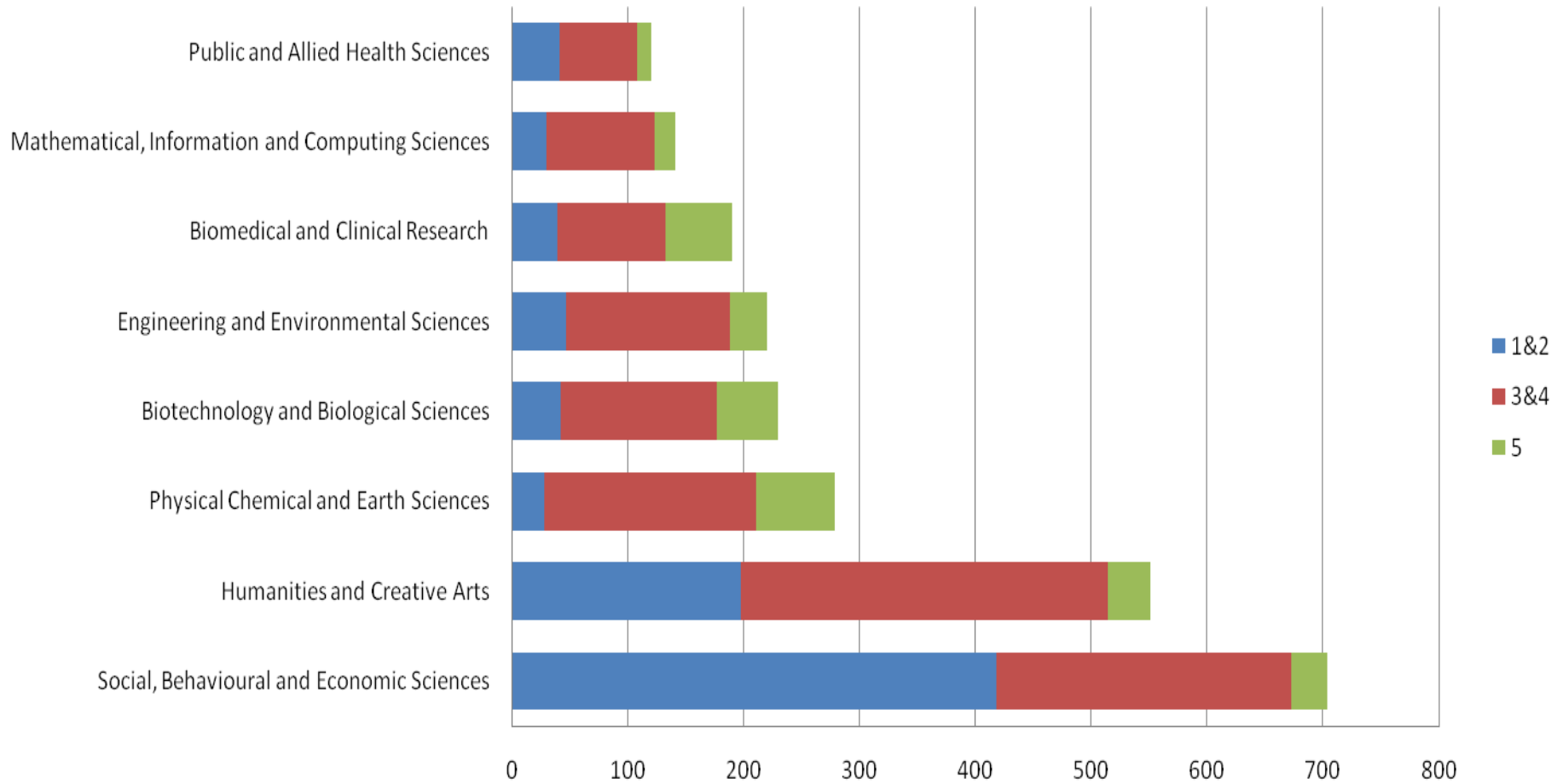
Strong Applied Research

- Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Crop and Pasture Protection
- Resources Engineering
- Materials Engineering
- Extractive Metallurgy
- Nursing

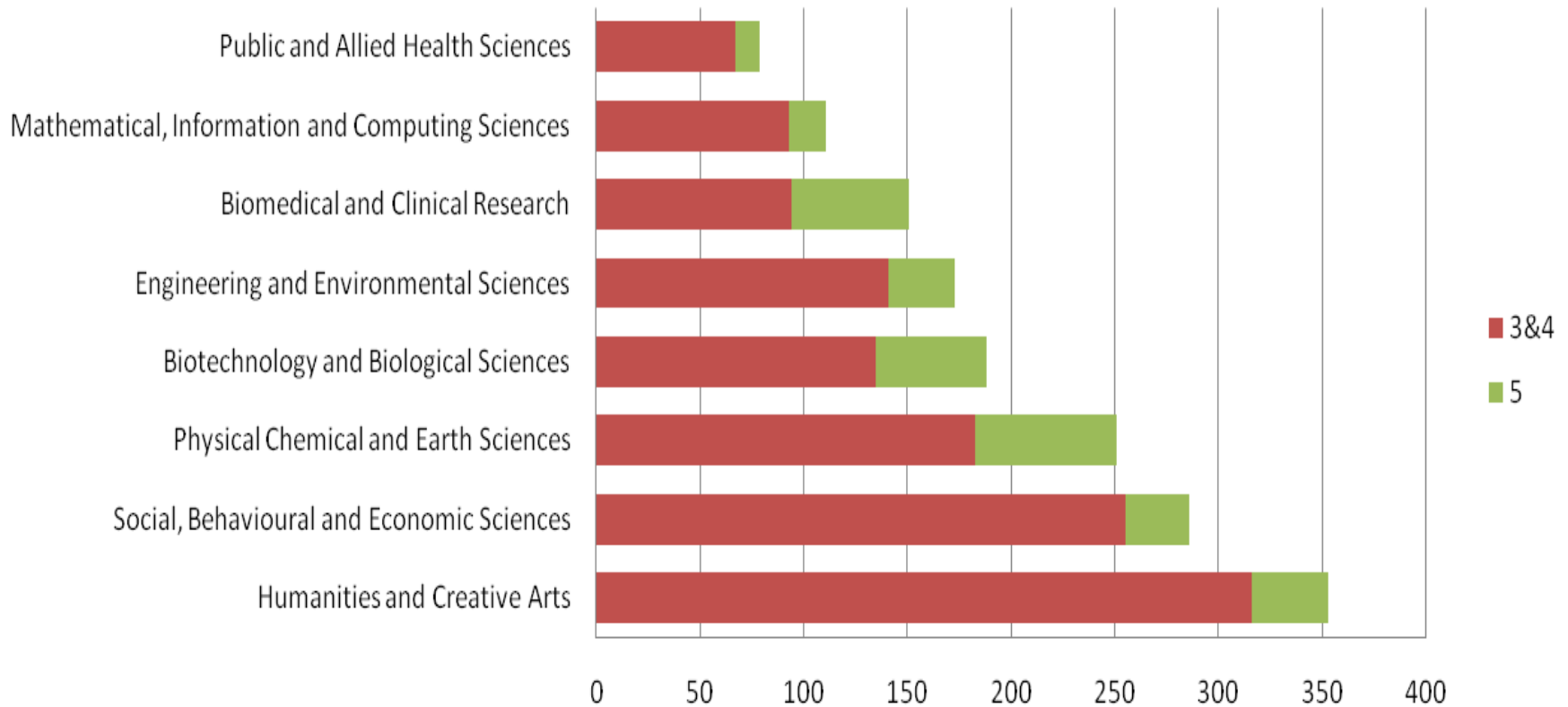
ERA 2010 myths

- Averages and Rankings
- Sciences v. Social Sciences & Humanities
- ERA does *not* evaluate individuals
- ERA does *not* evaluate individual outputs
- Ranked Journals did *not* drive ERA ratings
- ERA evaluations utilised metrics and peer review moderated by expert judgement

ERA 2010 Ratings by Cluster



ERA 2010 Rating by Cluster - at, above, or well above world standard (i.e. 3s, 4s, & 5s)



Changes for 2012

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

Unintended consequences-journal rankings

- Journals only easily accessible information
- Rapid response time
- Codified existing behaviour/practice
- Simplified application

The refined journal indicator

	University of Y	FoR0201	Astronomical and Space Sciences	
	Journal Title	Papers	Contribution	Cumulative
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>				

ERA 2012 – still to do

- Expanding peer reviewer pool
- Making peer review more robust (selection of outputs, reviewers)
- Draft Submission Guidelines to be issued to the sector in July 2011 for comment
- System development and testing

Research Block Funding

- Research Income
- Research Student Completions and Load
- Publications
- ERA
- APAs
- IPRS
- *Research Training Scheme*
- Joint Research Engagement
- *Sustainable Research Excellence*
- CTS

The ARC

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

**Evaluation
and Policy**

**Discovery &
Fellowships**
\$502 M

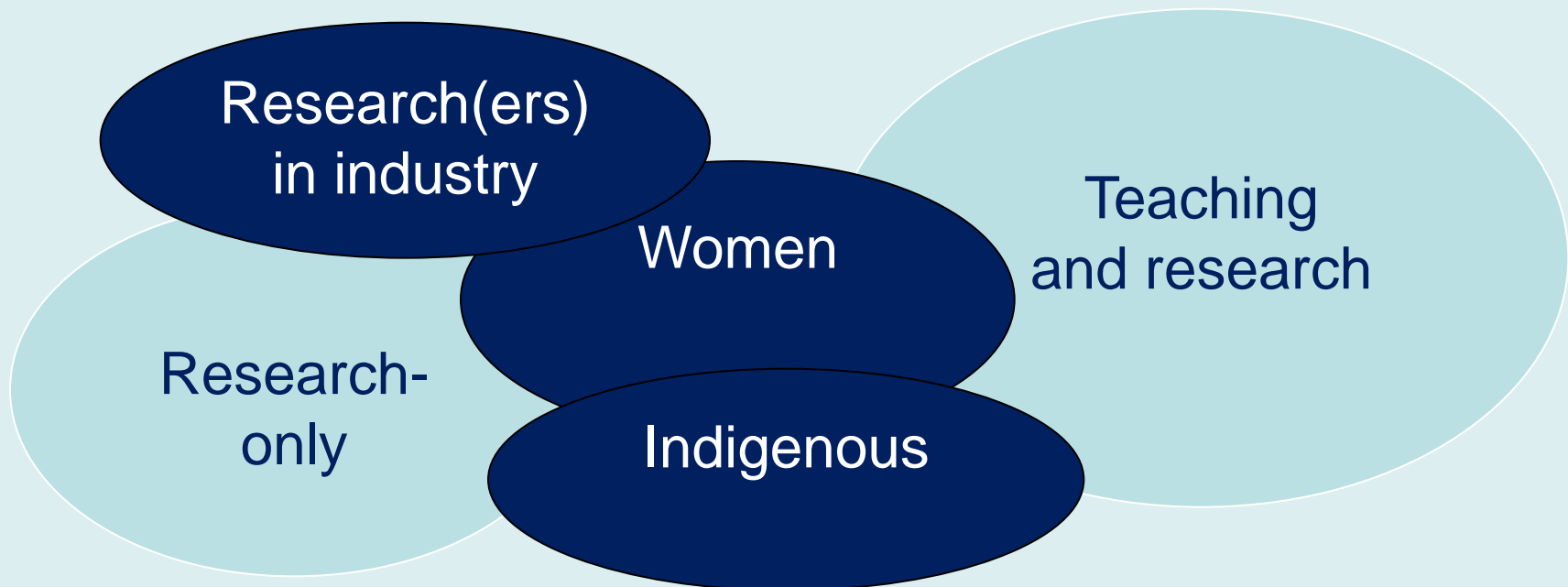
Linkage & Centres
\$308 M

**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**

The ARC aims to:

- Foster a range of different cohorts
- Create the right incentives for collaboration



- Have we got the balance right?



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**Overview of the research agenda
and the implications of ERA
Financial Review
Higher Education Conference 2011**

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

Research