



Australian Government  

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Australian Research Council

# Excellence in Research for Australia



*ERA 2012*

Flinders University

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22 November 2011

## Objectives of ERA – that is, what ERA does

- 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

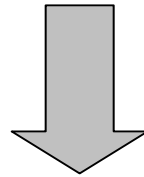
- **Baseline** - the Discipline in an institution = Four-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) e.g.  
1115 Pharmacology and Pharmaceutical Sciences
- **Higher perspective** – the division in an institution = Two-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) e.g.  
11 Medical and Health Sciences
- The ERA Unit is not about the department nor the individual researcher

ERA

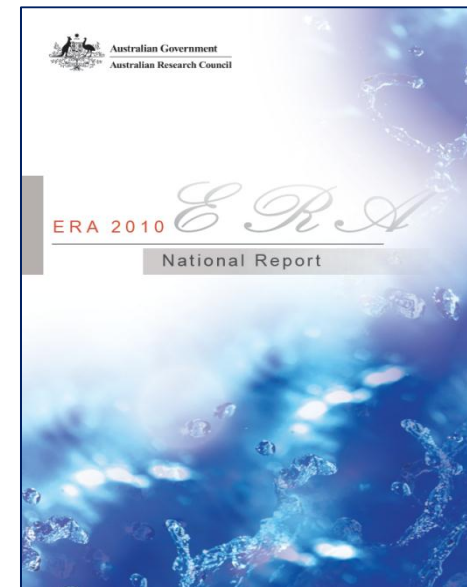
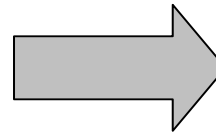
# ERA Process Overview

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

**Please note –  
no weightings**



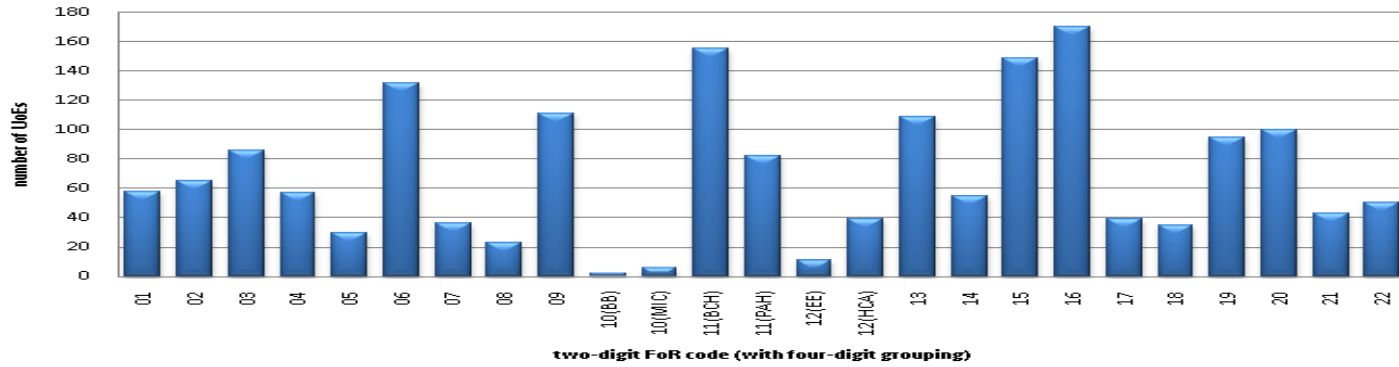
**Research Evaluation  
Committee**



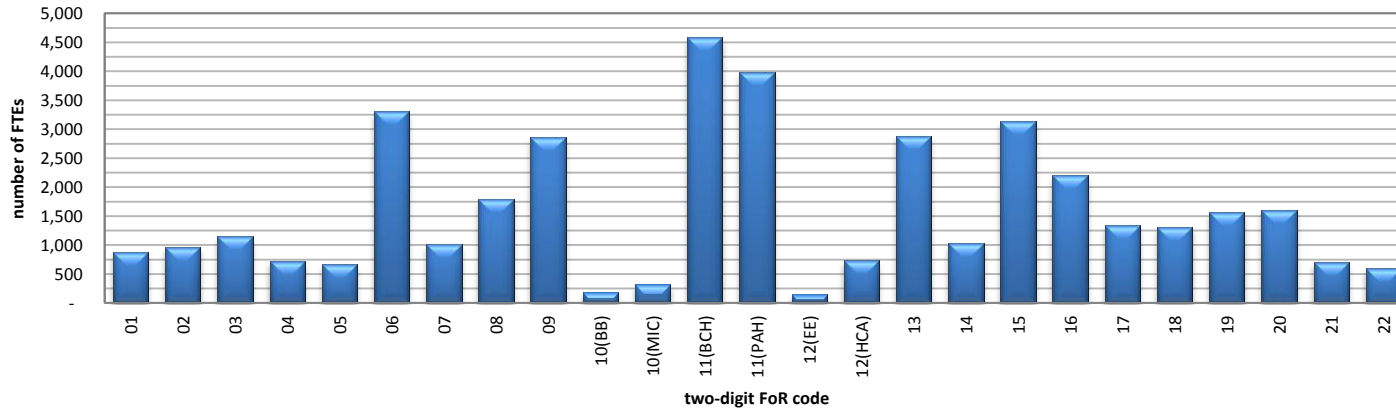
# Scale of ERA 2010

- All 41 eligible institutions submitted data
- Over 330,000 unique research outputs and 55,000 researchers represented
- 2,435 units of evaluation assessed at the two- and four-digit level
- 149 Research Evaluation Committee (REC) members and 500+ Peer Reviewers contributed evaluations
- All aggregated data presented in the *ERA 2010 National Report*.

UoEs assessed by aggregated four-digit FoR codes (grouped by two-digit FoR code)

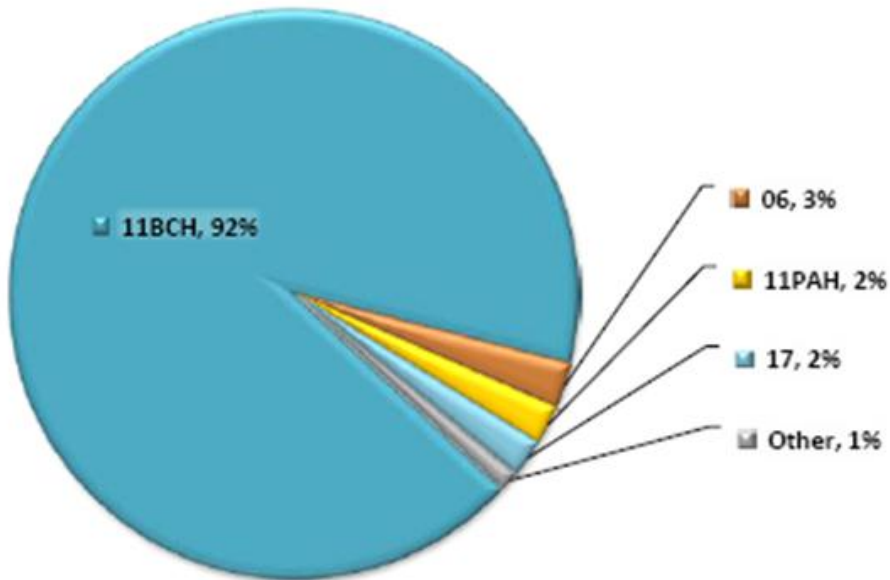


Staffing Profile by two-digit FoR code

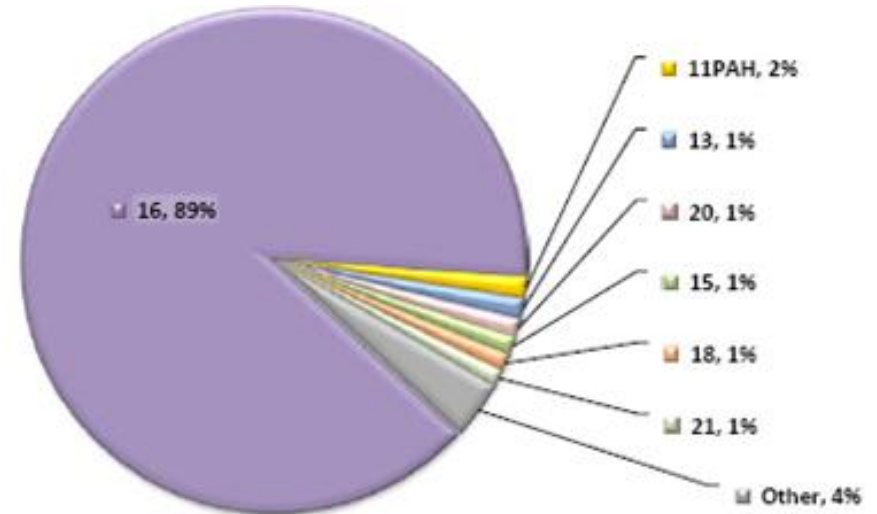


# Interdisciplinary Research ?

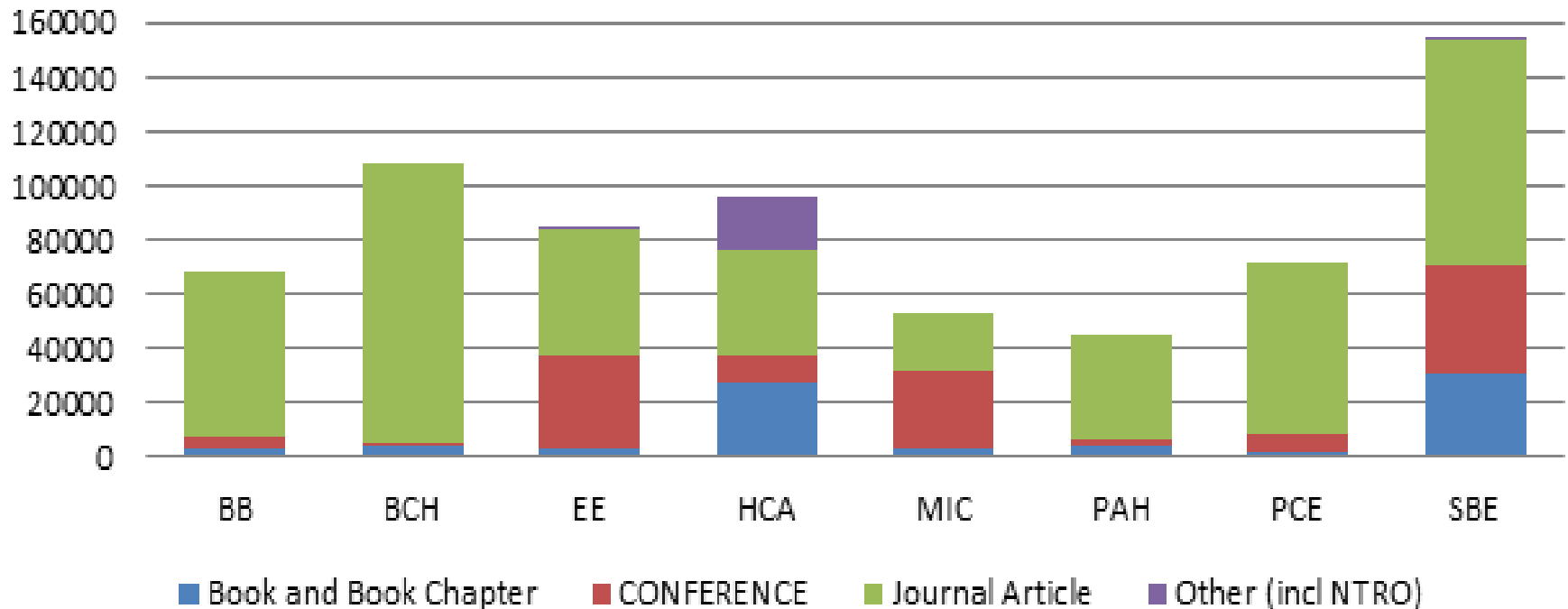
Disciplinary profile:  
Medical and Health Sciences



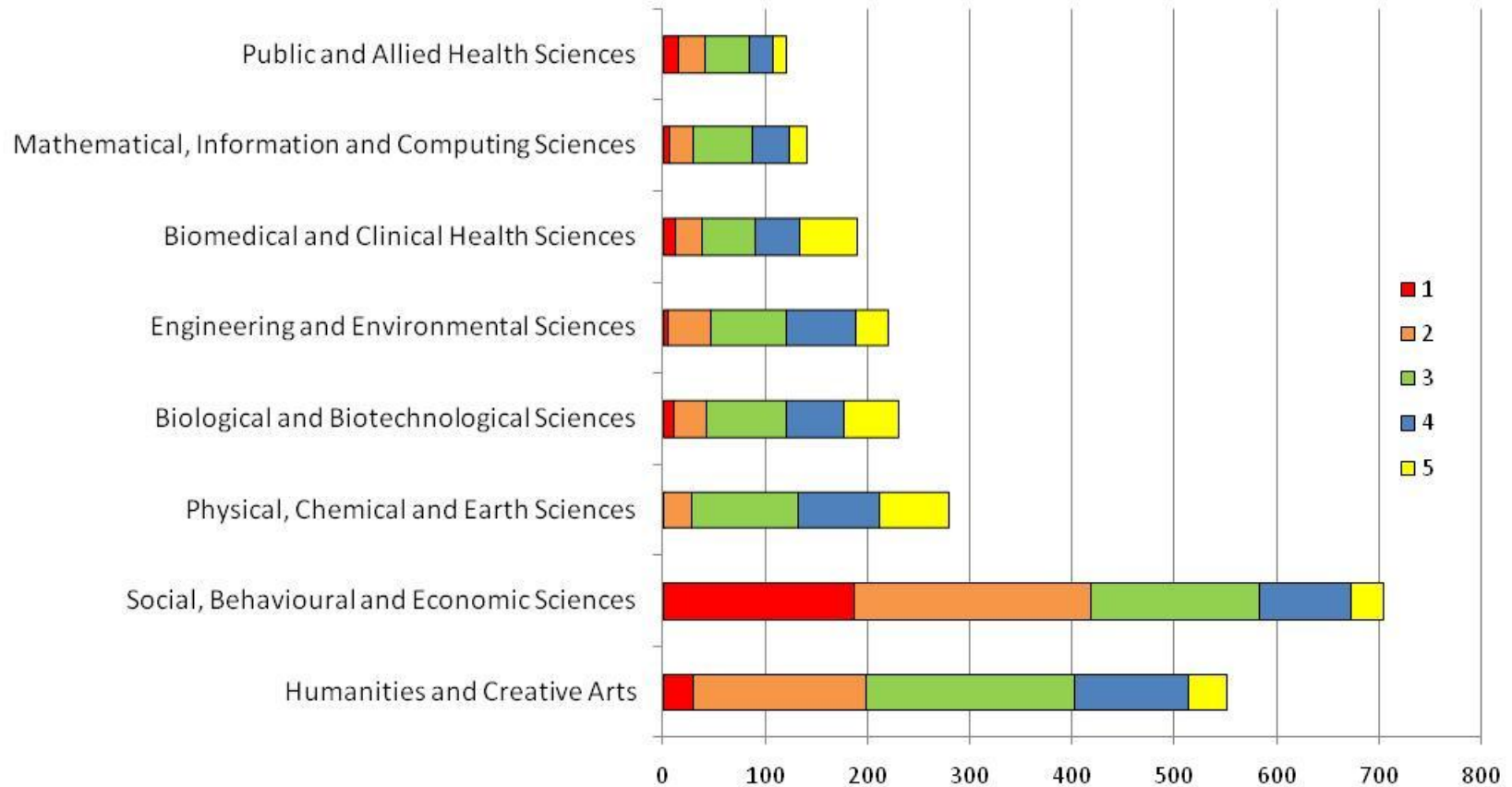
Disciplinary profile:  
Studies in Human Society



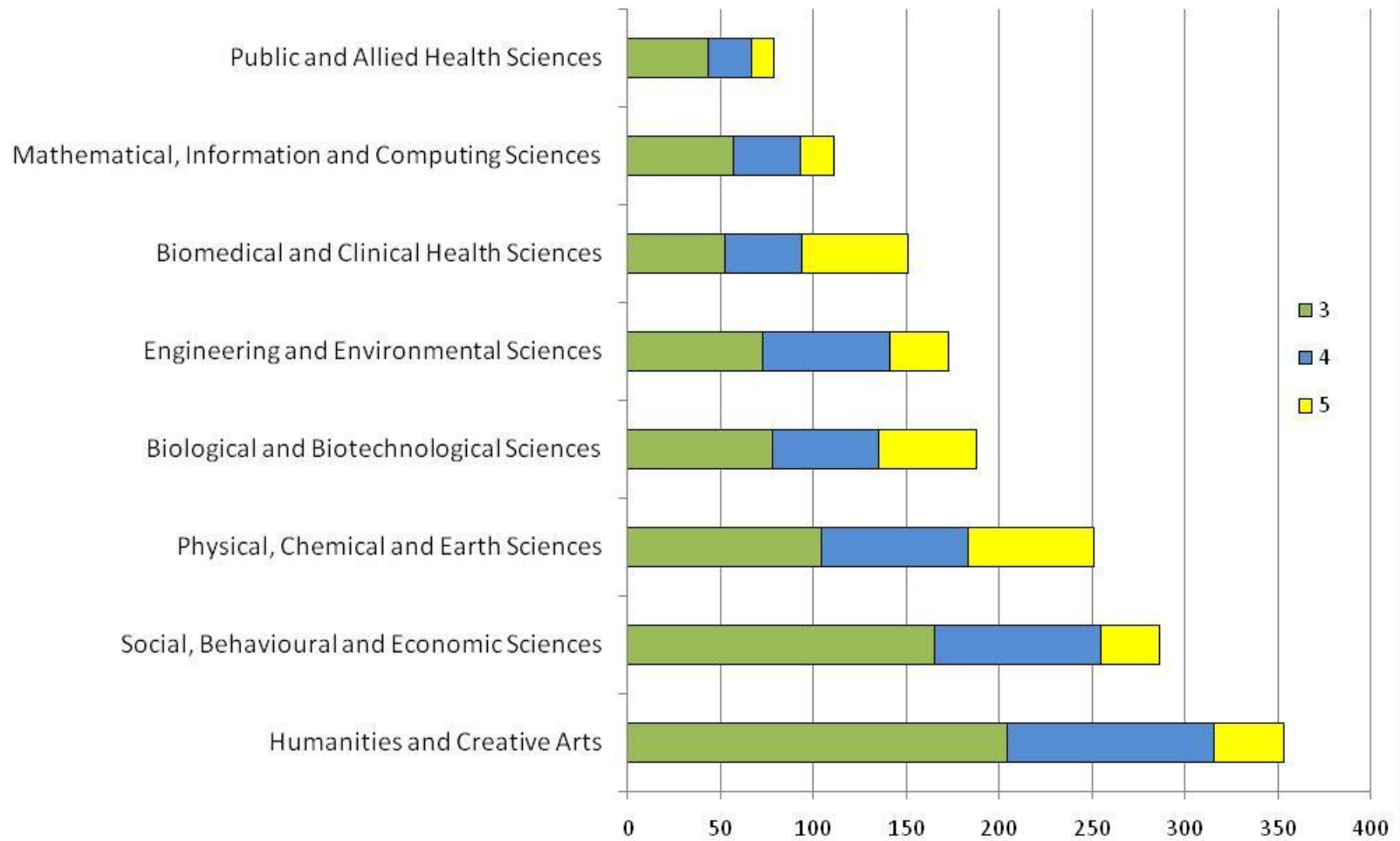
## Research Outputs by Discipline Cluster (Jan. 2003 - Dec. 2008)



## ERA 2010 Ratings by Cluster (2 and 4 digit)



## ERA 2010 Ratings at world standard and above (2 and 4 digit)



## Refinements for ERA 2012

- Journal articles with  $\geq 66\%$  content in a discipline can be apportioned to that discipline
- Low volume threshold for peer review disciplines raised to 50 apportioned weighted outputs (maintaining 5:1 weighting for books)
- Fractional staff: minimum 40% appointment at ERA census date
- Eligibility of patents, plant breeder's rights and registered designs extended to individuals
- Construction of the pool of outputs for peer review (30%)

# 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%
	<b>Total</b>	<b>465</b>		
<i>Please note that this is not based on any university's submission to ERA 2010</i>				

# ERA 2012 – still finalising

- Recruitment of Research Evaluation Committees (Chairs have been announced)
- Expansion of peer reviewer pool
- Submission and beyond!

# Use of ERA results and the future

- **SRE** funding will have a performance component driven by ERA results – consultation is underway with the sector
- **RTS** funding to include an ERA-driven component – consultation underway, to be informed by Research Workforce Strategy
- **CRN** – Minister has said that ERA results will be used to drive some portion of CRN in the future

**Consultation, consultation, consultation .....**

# Further information

- **Web:** [www.arc.gov.au/era](http://www.arc.gov.au/era)
- **Email:** [era@arc.gov.au](mailto:era@arc.gov.au)
- **Hotline:** 02 6287 6755