Excellence in Research for Australia

ERA 2012
Flinders University
Christopher Marshall, ARC
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 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*. 
Interdisciplinary Research?

Disciplinary profile: Medical and Health Sciences

Disciplinary profile: Studies in Human Society
Research Outputs by Discipline Cluster
ERA 2010 Ratings by Cluster (2 and 4 digit)

- Public and Allied Health Sciences
- Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences
- Biomedical and Clinical Health Sciences
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- Biological and Biotechnological Sciences
- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
- Humanities and Creative Arts

Legend:
- Red: 1
- Orange: 2
- Green: 3
- Blue: 4
- Yellow: 5
ERA 2010 Ratings at world standard and above (2 and 4 digit)

- Public and Allied Health Sciences
- Mathematical, Information and Computing Sciences
- Biomedical and Clinical Health Sciences
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences
- Biological and Biotechnological Sciences
- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
- Humanities and Creative Arts
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal title</th>
<th>Papers</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Journal of Law and Medicine</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Public Law Review</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Australian Journal of Administrative Law</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Law in Context</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Australian Journal of Family Law</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Company and Securities Law Journal</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Torts Law Journal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Contemporary Issues in Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>9 Law and Policy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>32%</td>
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<tr>
<td>10 International Journal of the Legal Profession</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>34%</td>
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<tr>
<td>11 Australian Journal of Corporate Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>36%</td>
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<tr>
<td>12 Australian Journal of Labour Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>38%</td>
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<tr>
<td>13 Journal of Judicial Administration</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Federal Law Review</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>42%</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Forensic Science International</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Legal Theory</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Revenue Law Journal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>47%</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 AIAL National Lecture Series on Administrative Law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Intertax: international tax review</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>50%</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>485</strong></td>
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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

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