



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

**Innovative Research Universities
Senior Staff Forum
University of Newcastle
7 July 2011**

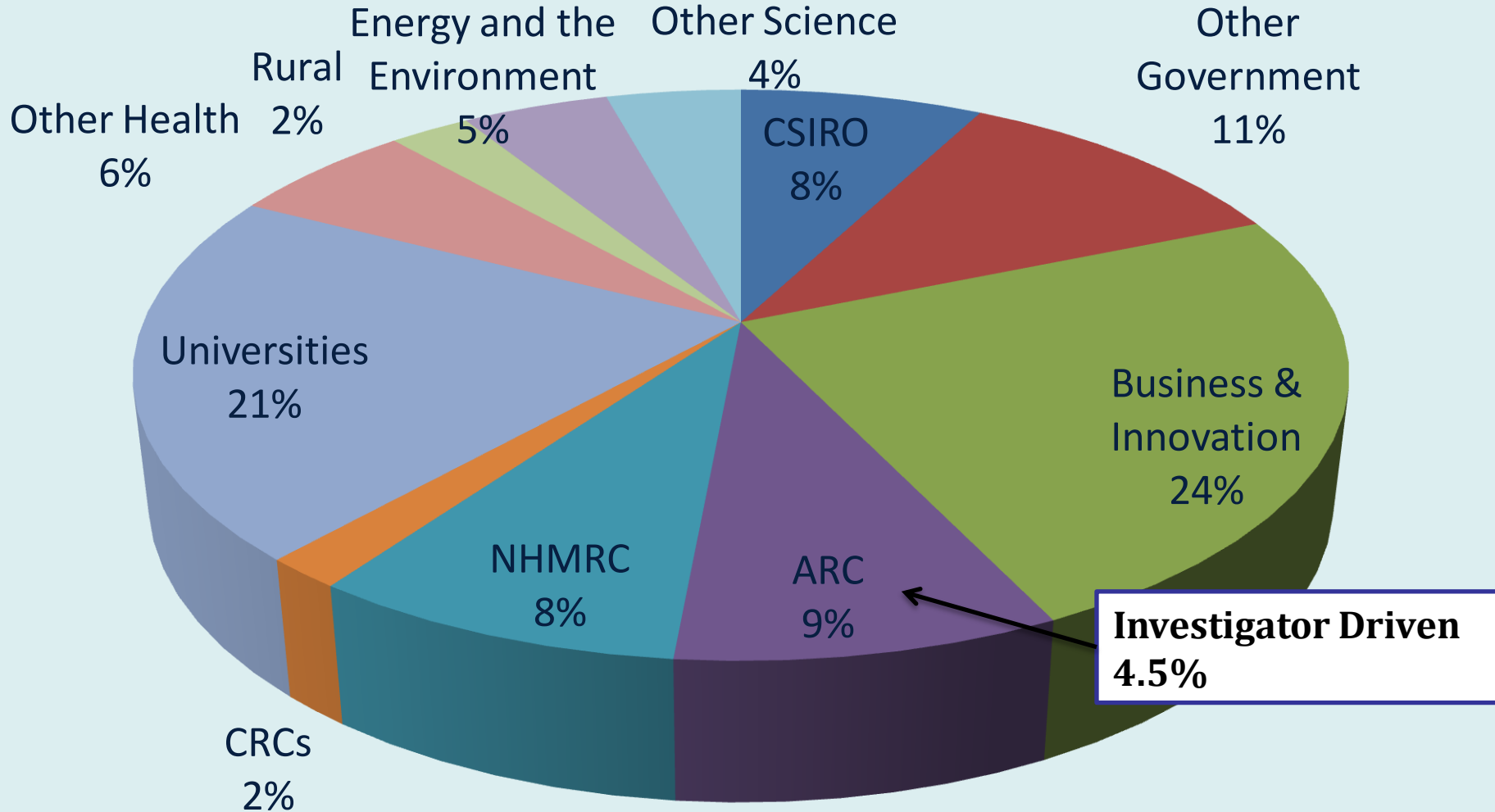
**Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council**

Research

Outline

- The research policy context
- Research workforce – the challenges
- Changes to NCGP
- ERA and research funding
- The Research Landscape 2020

Government Investment in Research 2011-12



Research
Workforce
Strategy

TEQSA

Health of
Australian
Science
Project

Fostering research
excellence, capacity
building



Review of
research
priorities

Powering
Ideas

Mission based
Compacts and
block funding

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

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 training and develop skills for future researchers**
- **Provide incentives for partnerships and collaboration nationally and internationally**

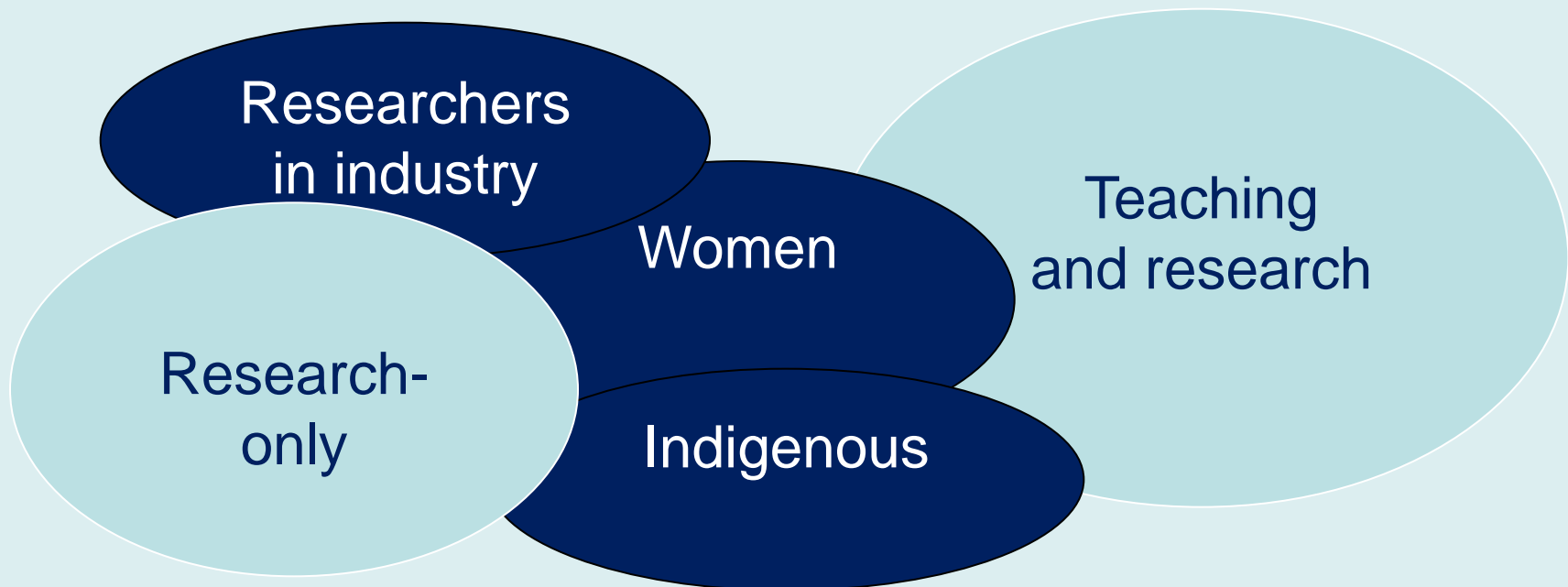


The ARC does not:

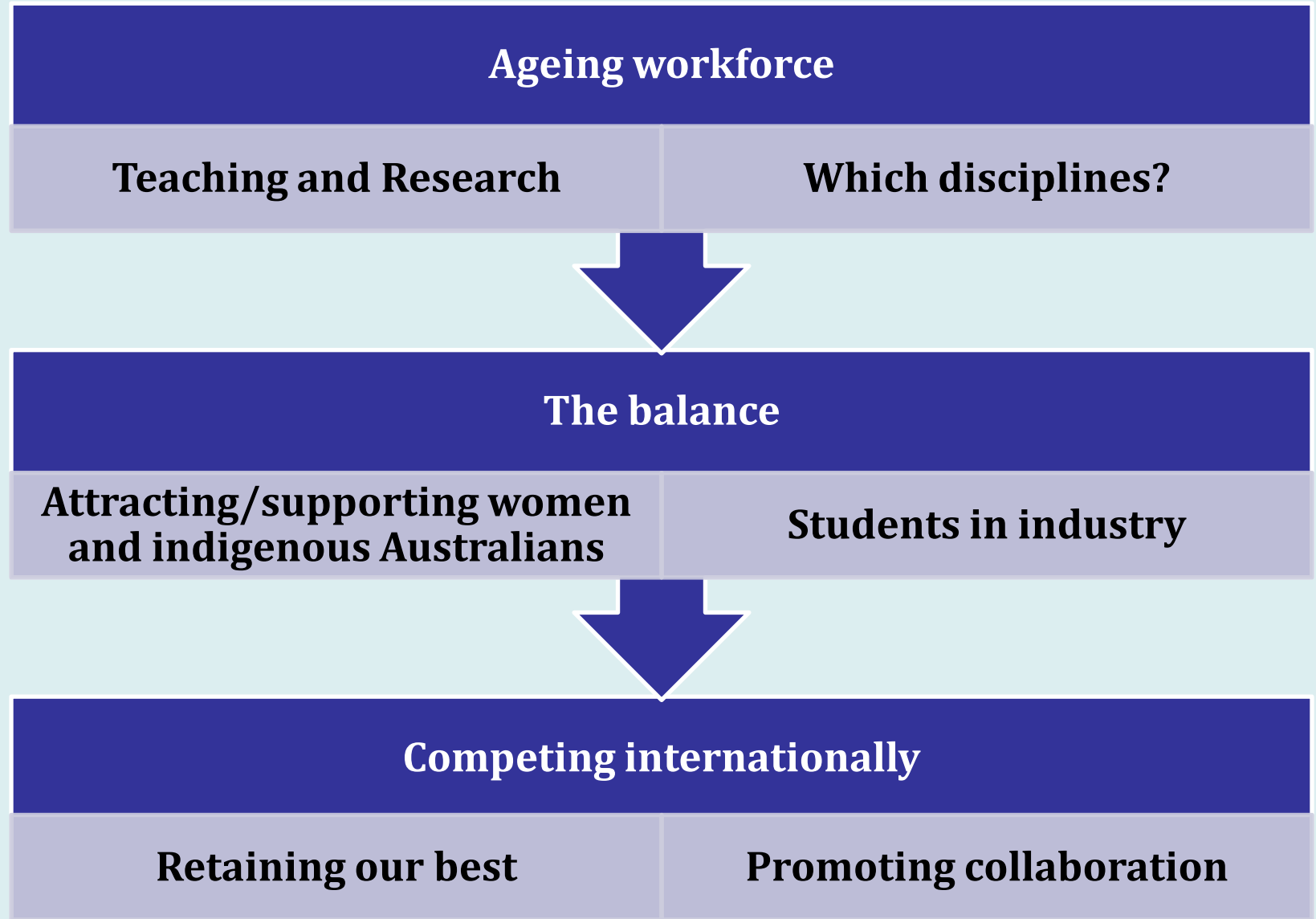
- Employ researchers directly
- Aim to provide a complete externally funded career structure
- Fund all the excellent research proposals it receives

The ARC aims to:

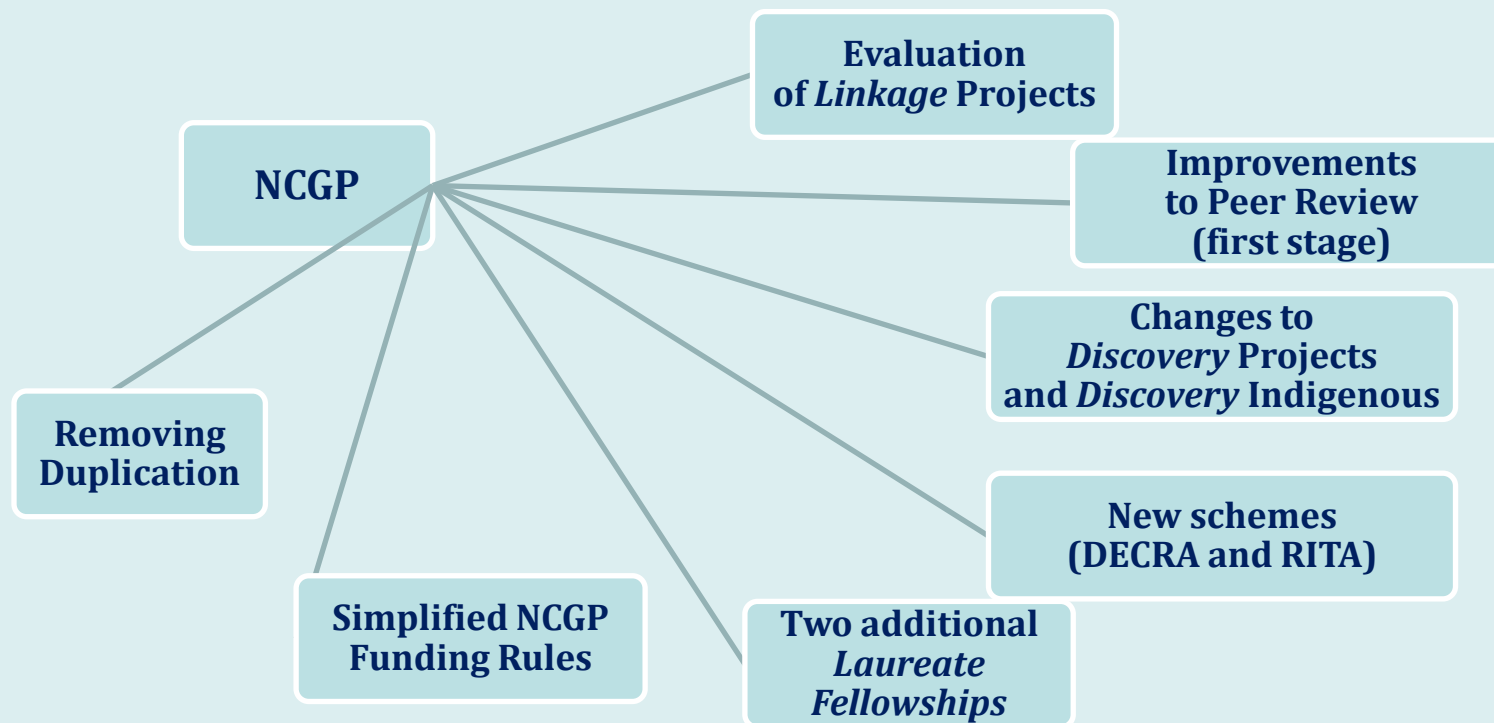
- Provide opportunities for researchers at every career stage
- Foster a range of different cohorts



Research Workforce – the challenges



NCGP– the latest developments



Research Quality



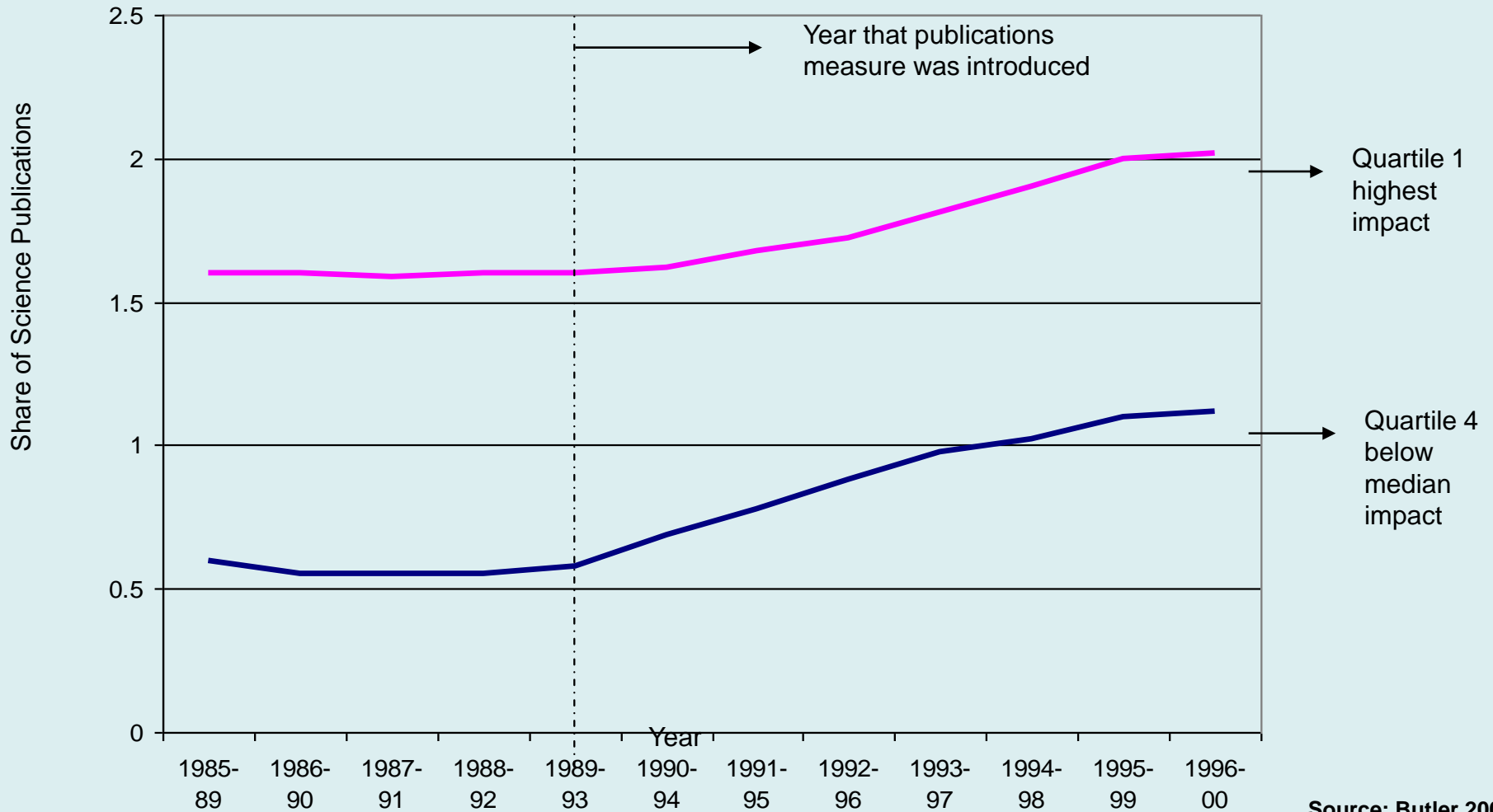
Research Strengths

Research Gaps

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

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)

Whole of Government Issues

- Commitment to budget surplus in 2013
- Natural disasters and other factors impacting on revenue
- Political situation raising expectations and requirements (Stakeholders & Reporting)
- Big ticket items-health, mining tax, carbon price etc.
- Challenges ahead for research infrastructure



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