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

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CEO, Australian Research Council
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

- Business & Innovation: 24%
- Other Health: 6%
- Universities: 21%
- Rural: 2%
- Energy and the Environment: 5%
- Other: 11%
- CRCs: 2%
- NHMRC: 8%
- Investigator Driven: 4.5%
- ARC: 9%
- CSIRO: 8%

Web: arc.gov.au | Email: info@arc.gov.au
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

Web: arc.gov.au  |  Email: info@arc.gov.au
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

<table>
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<tr>
<th>National Competitive Grants Program</th>
<th>Evaluate and Policy</th>
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<td>$810M in 11-12</td>
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<th>Discovery &amp; Fellowships</th>
<th>Linkage &amp; Centres</th>
<th>Excellence in Research for Australia</th>
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<td>$502 M</td>
<td>$308 M</td>
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- 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

- Researchers in industry
- Women
- Indigenous
- Research-only
- Teaching and research
Research Workforce – the challenges

Ageing workforce

Teaching and Research

Which disciplines?

The balance

Attracting/supporting women and indigenous Australians

Students in industry

Competing internationally

Retaining our best

Promoting collaboration

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NCGP – the latest developments

- Evaluation of Linkage Projects
- Improvements to Peer Review (first stage)
- Changes to Discovery Projects and Discovery Indigenous
- New schemes (DECRA and RITA)
- Two additional Laureate Fellowships
- Simplified NCGP Funding Rules
- Removing Duplication
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

Year that publications measure was introduced

Quartile 1 highest impact

Quartile 4 below median impact

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