



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Research Workforce Forum

Thursday 17 March 2011

***Fostering and Evaluating
Research Excellence***

Professor Margaret Sheil

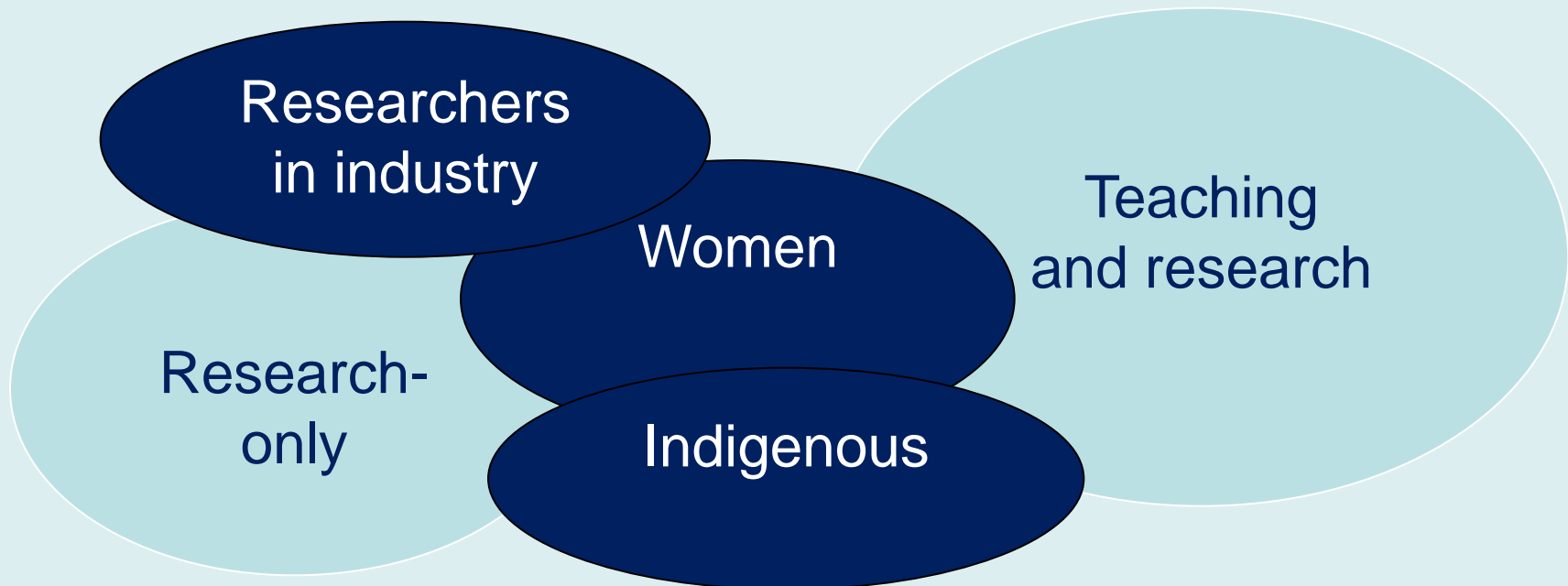
CEO, Australian Research Council

Research

- 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 aims to:

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



The ARC does not:

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

Fostering & Evaluating Excellence through:

Funding & Investment

- Government to the ARC
- ARC to researchers

Flexibility

- Career interruptions (ECRs and women)
- Options to convert & teaching transitions

Linking & Developing

- High quality, supportive & exemplary training
- Outcome orientated & enabling

Information

- Providing a research excellence roadmap
- Finding stronger ways to evaluate research

Partnerships

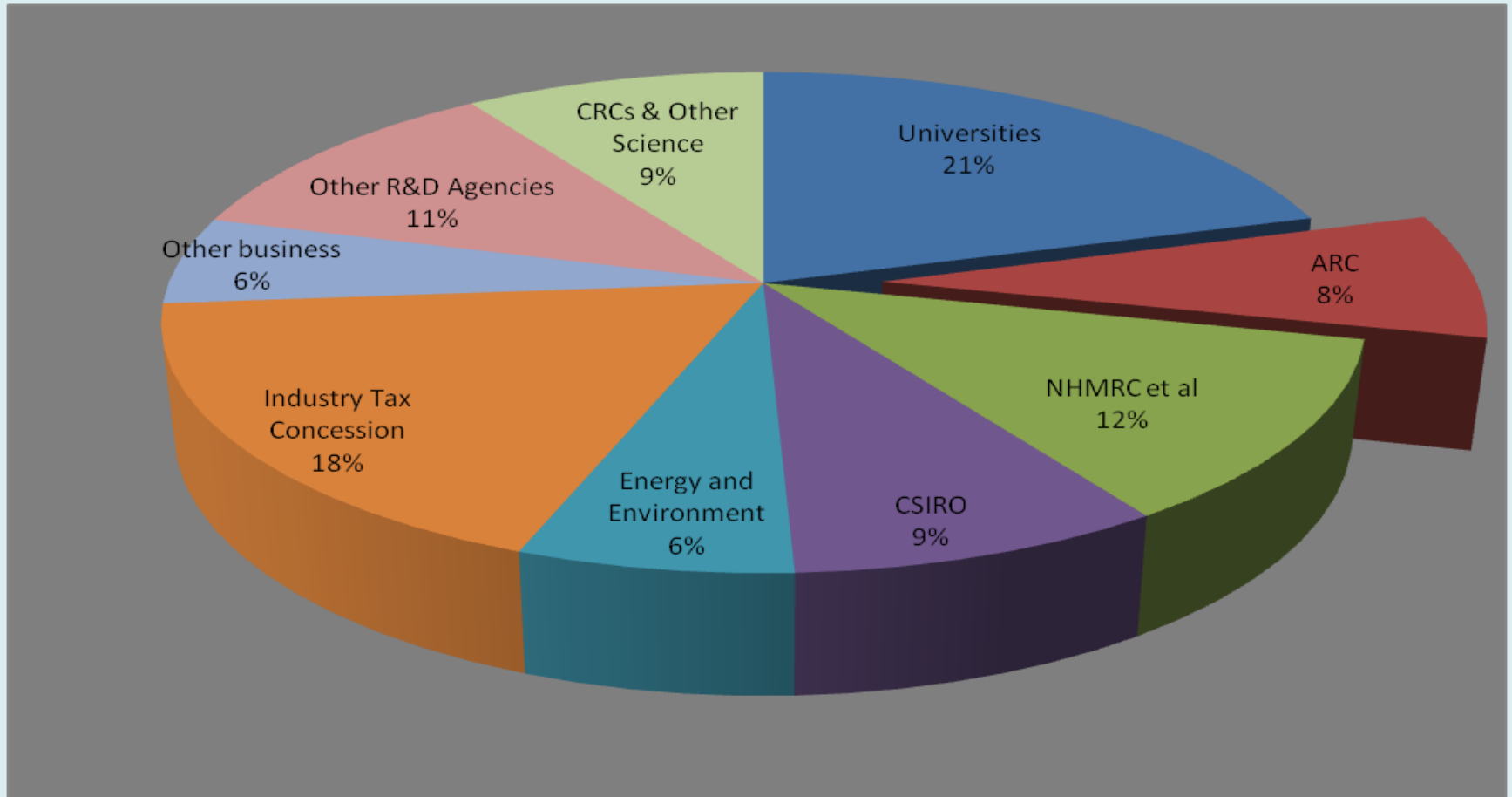
- International
- Industry

Fostering & Evaluating Excellence through:

Funding &
Investment

- Government
to the ARC
- ARC
to researchers

Government Investment in Research 2010-11



National Competitive Grants Program
\$708M

**Evaluation
and Policy**

**Discovery &
Fellowships**
\$423 M

Linkage & Centres
\$285 M

**Excellence in
Research for
Australia**

- NCGP funding (2010-11) = \$708,733 million
- \$376 million – Major Grants supporting 1126 innovative projects
- \$255.9 million – 13 new *ARC Centres of Excellence*

National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)

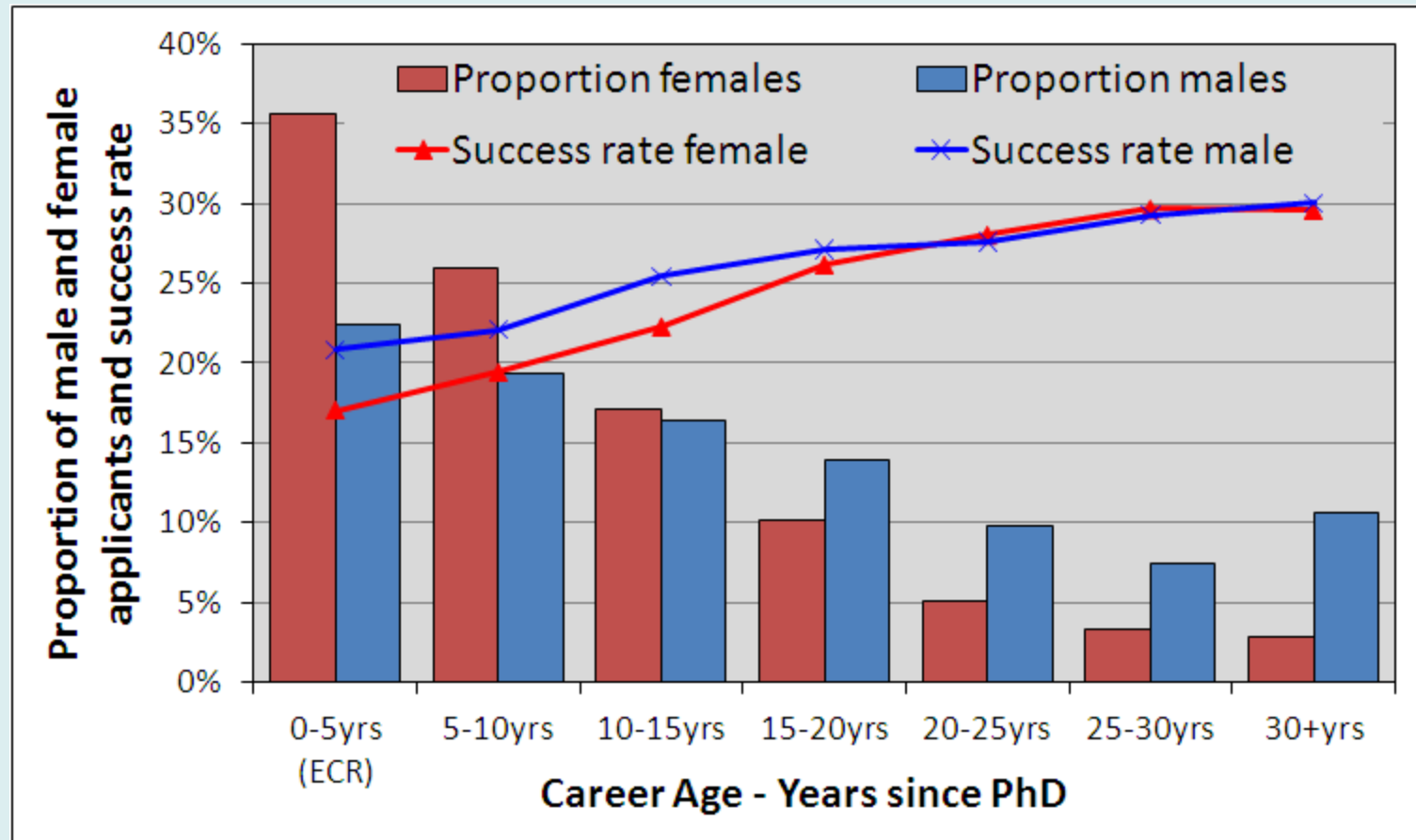
- Highest-quality research
- New ideas, advancement of knowledge
- Facilities and equipment
- Internationally competitive researchers
- Building research capacity
- Industry links and internationalisation

Fostering & Evaluating Excellence through:

Flexibility

- Career interruptions
- For ECRs and women researchers
- Options to convert & teaching transitions

Discovery Projects – Male and female applicants and corresponding success rates by career age



Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

- Provide career opportunities for early-career researchers who have been awarded a PhD within five years or, commensurate with significant career interruption, within eight years
- Up to 200 three-year awards will be available each year, commencing in 2012.
- Funding of up to \$125,000 will be provided to support a fixed salary (\$85,000) and project costs.

Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)

- Changing how we think about performance
- Track record becomes
- Assessors take into account any career interruptions, such as:
 - Childbirth
 - Carer's responsibility
 - Misadventure
 - Debilitating illness

Fostering & Evaluating Excellence through:

Linking & Developing

- High quality and supportive (DECRA)
- Exemplary training environment (Laureates)
- Outcome orientated, high-calibre (Linkage)
- Enabling Indigenous Australians (Discovery)

Australian Laureate Fellowships

2x PhD
2x Post-Doc

17
5-year
awards

Discovery Early Career Researcher Award (DECRA)

\$125,000

200 p.a.
3-year
awards

Researchers in Industry Training Awards

\$30,000

100
3-year
awards
(bi-annual)

Future Fellowships

Up to
\$143,00

200 p.a.
4-year
fellowships

Discovery Indigenous Researchers Development- consultation process

- November 2010: meeting with leading Indigenous researchers at the ARC
- February 2011: consultation with the Indigenous Higher Education Advisory Council (IHEAC)
- February-March 2011: additional consultation with IHEAC, AIATSIS, members of the DI Selection Advisory Committee for the past five years, and past and present Indigenous College of Experts members

Future Fellowships

- Aim to attract and retain the best and brightest mid-career researchers (between 5 and 15 years research experience since the award of their PhD)
- Up to 200 Future Fellowships may be awarded for funding commencing in 2011.
- Three salary steps (academic levels C to E) and up to \$50,000 project costs.

DECRA and FT

	DECRA	FT
Career Stage	Early career	Mid career
PhD award	0-5 yrs post PhD, 8yrs with interruption	5-15 years post PhD
Eligibility exemption	n/a	Significant interruption or limitation of career outputs (up to 22 yrs post PhD, but not less than 5 yrs)
Duration	3 years	4 years
Salary	Contribution of \$85,000/year	Three salary levels
Project costs	Up to \$40,000/year	Up to \$50,000/year

Fostering & Evaluating Excellence through:

Information

- Providing a research excellence roadmap
- Finding stronger ways to evaluate research



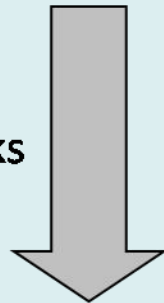
Research Strengths

Research Gaps

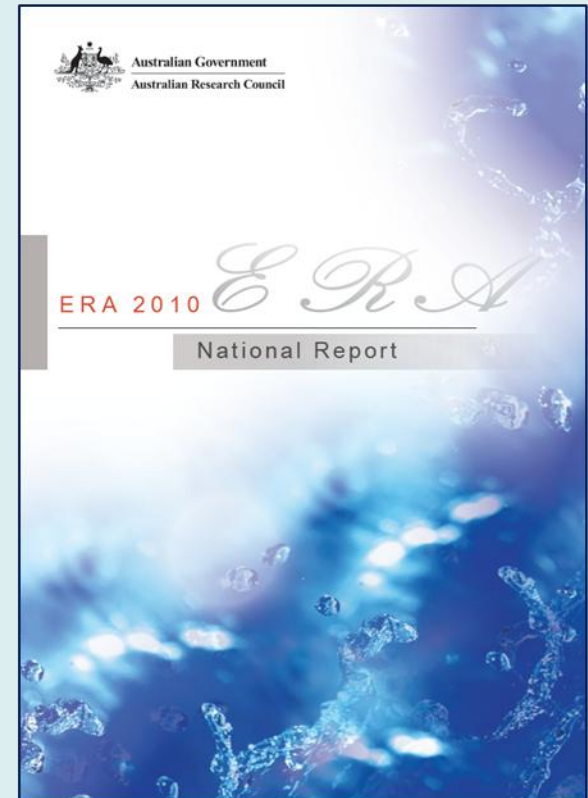
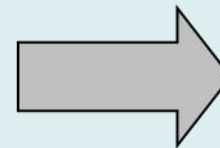
ERA Process Overview

Volume & Activity	Ranked Outlets
Citation Analysis	Esteem
Research Income	Applied Measures
Peer Review	

International Benchmarks



Research Evaluation Committees



ERA Unit of Evaluation – the FoRs

19	Studies in Creative Arts and Writing
+ 1901	ART THEORY AND CRITICISM
+ 1902	FILM, TELEVISION AND DIGITAL MEDIA
+ 1903	JOURNALISM AND PROFESSIONAL WRITING
- 1904	PERFORMING ARTS AND CREATIVE WRITING
>	190401 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Performing Arts
>	190402 Creative Writing (incl. Playwriting)
>	190403 Dance
>	190404 Drama, Theatre and Performance Studies
>	190405 Māori Performing Arts
>	190406 Music Composition
>	190407 Music Performance
>	190408 Music Therapy
>	190409 Musicology and Ethnomusicology
>	190410 Pacific Peoples Performing Arts
>	190499 Performing Arts and Creative Writing not elsewhere classified
+ 1905	VISUAL ARTS AND CRAFTS
+ 1999	OTHER STUDIES IN CREATIVE ARTS AND WRITING

2-digit

4-digits

6-digits

The ERA Unit is not the department nor the individual researcher

The ERA Clusters

Cluster 1	Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences
Cluster 2	Humanities and Creative Arts
Cluster 3	Engineering and Environmental Sciences
Cluster 4	Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
Cluster 5	Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences
Cluster 6	Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
Cluster 7	Biomedical and Clinical Research
Cluster 8	Public and Allied Health, and Health Sciences

The ERA 2010 Rating Scale

Rating	Descriptor
5	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of outstanding performance well above world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
4	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance above world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
3	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of average performance at world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
2	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance below world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
1	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance well below world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
NA	Not assessed due to low volume. The number of research outputs does not meet the volume threshold standard for evaluation in ERA.

National Strengths

- Astronomical and Space Sciences
- Optical Physics
- Quantum Physics
- Macromolecular & Materials Chemistry
- Physical & Structural Chemistry
- Geology
- Ecology
- Evolutionary Biology
- Plant Biology
- Zoology
- 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**

ERA 2010 Consultation for ERA 2012

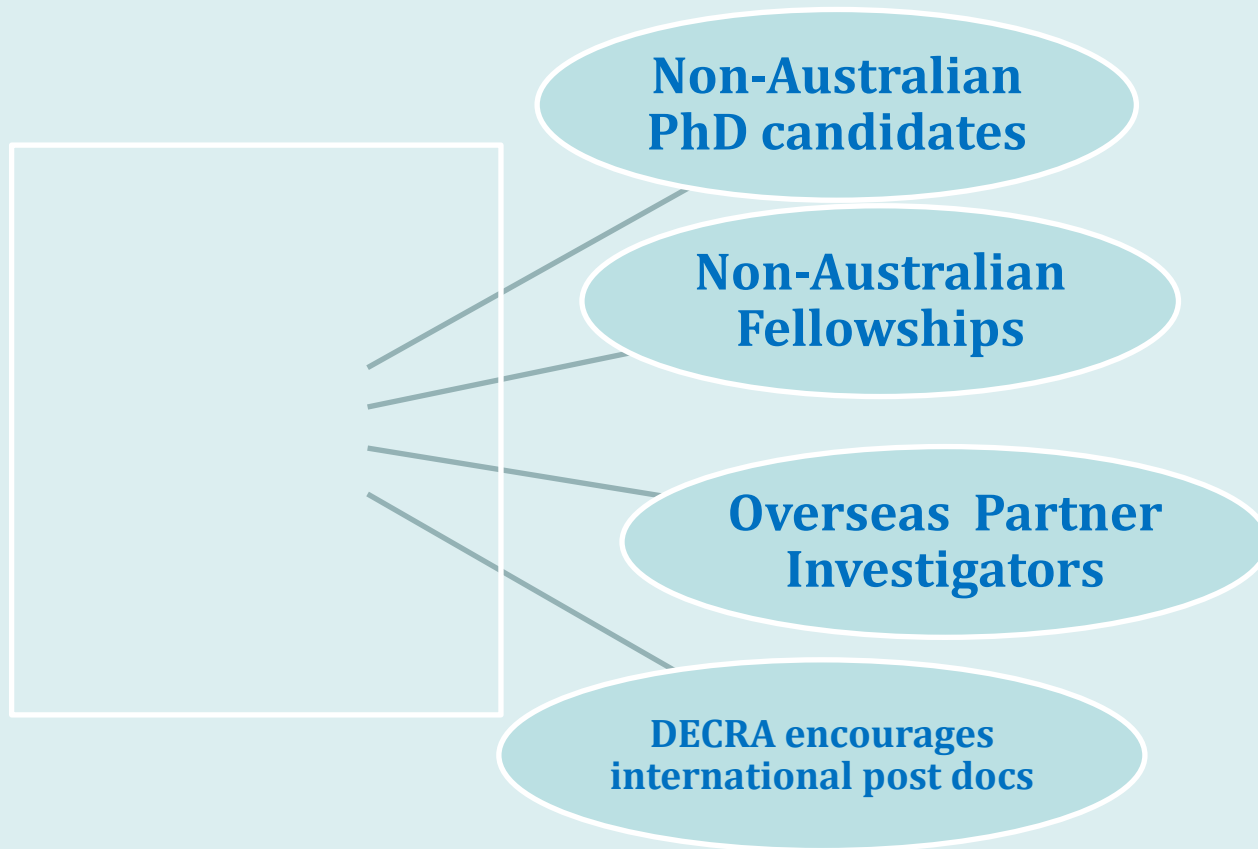
- Publications 1 Jan 2005- 31 December 2010
- Review of ranked journal list underway
- Broad sector feedback underway, regarding:
 - Low volume thresholds (plus outputs that contribute)
 - FORs allocated to clusters
 - Utility of 2-digit versus 4-digit
 - Indicator matrix for each discipline
 - Reference periods for income etc.
 - Researcher eligibility

Fostering & Evaluating Excellence through:

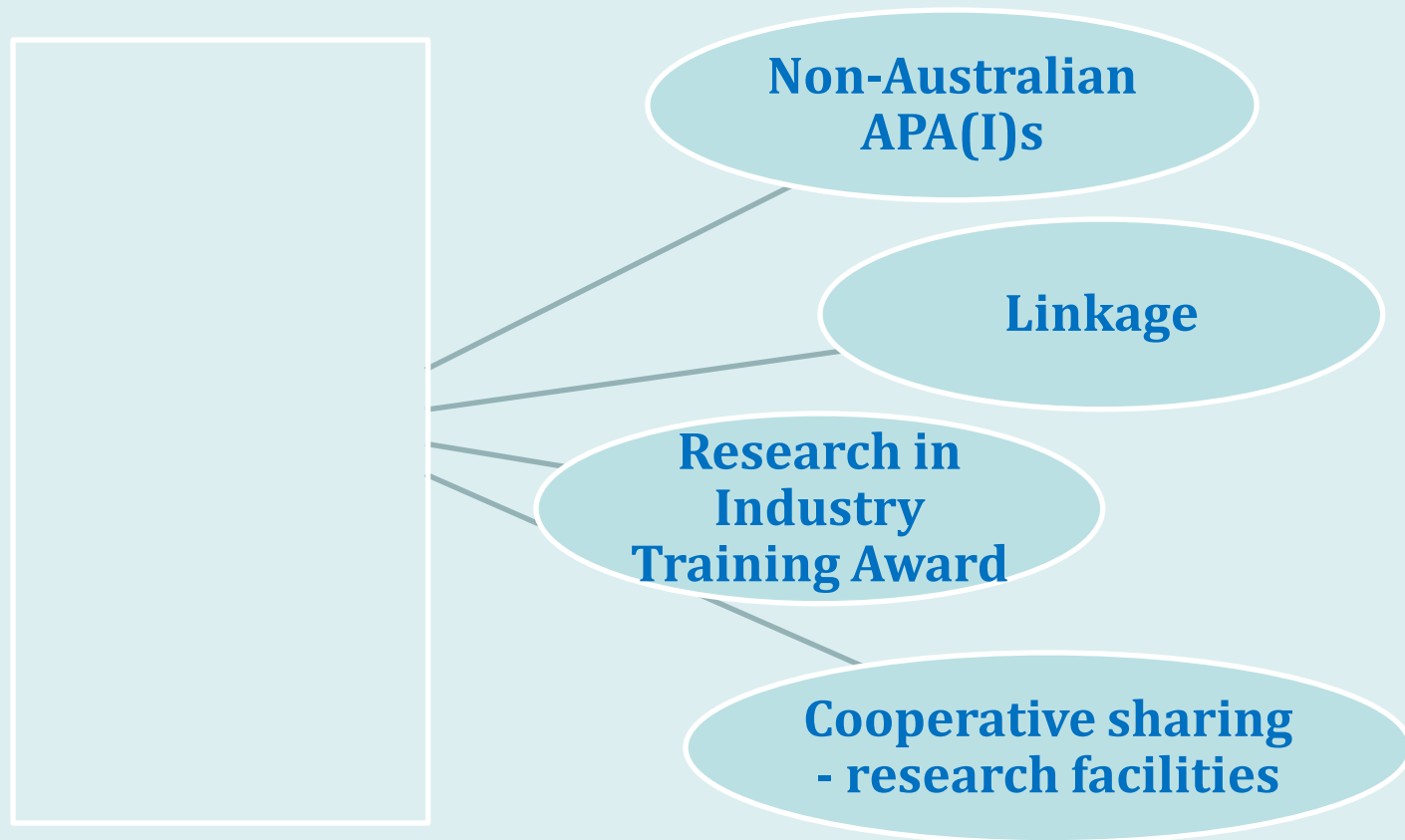
Partnerships

- International
- Industry

Partnerships (International)



Partnerships (Industry)





Australian Government
Australian Research Council

*The ARC is committed
to working with institutions
to support careers
in flexible and innovative ways
in order to maximise opportunities for our talent.*

Professor Margaret Sheil
CEO, Australian Research Council

Research