



Australian Government

Australian Research Council

Universities Australia

Thursday 10 March 2011

Australian Research Council Update

Professor Margaret Sheil

CEO, Australian Research Council

Research

UPDATE - ARC

NCGP

ERA

IT

UPDATE – National Competitive Grants Program

Discovery

- Indigenous
- Early Career

Future Fellowship

New Processes

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

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.

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

Overlap of Fellowships

In 2008 for example:

- 15 % of all APFs applied for a Future Fellowship
- 30 % of all ARF/QEIs also applied for a Future Fellowship
- 6 % of all APFs applied for a Australian Laureate Fellowship

In 2010 for example:

- In excess of 25 instances of individuals awarded one or more Fellowships

Reduction of overlap of Fellowships in 2011

- ARC schemes: cannot apply for a Discovery Outstanding Researcher Award (DORA) in *Discovery Projects* and Future Fellowship (FT) in the same calendar year
- Cannot apply for a Future Fellowship (FT) from ARC and a Fellowship on a NHMRC Proposal

New Processes for ARC Responses to enquiries

- All inquiries to be sent to Scheme generic contacts as listed in Funding Rules
- Responses will be cleared in the order they arrive
- One clearance meeting for all schemes daily
- Emails from researchers
(For discussion)

UPDATE – ERA 2010 Review

**Common
misconceptions**

Reviews

Targeted

General

ERA 2010

Common Misconceptions

- ✘ Averages and Rankings
- ✘ Sciences v. Social Sciences & Humanities
- ☑ ERA does *not* evaluate individuals
- ☑ ERA does *not* evaluate individual outputs
- ☑ Ranked Journals do *not* drive ERA ratings
- ☑ ERA evaluations were *not* subjective

ERA 2010

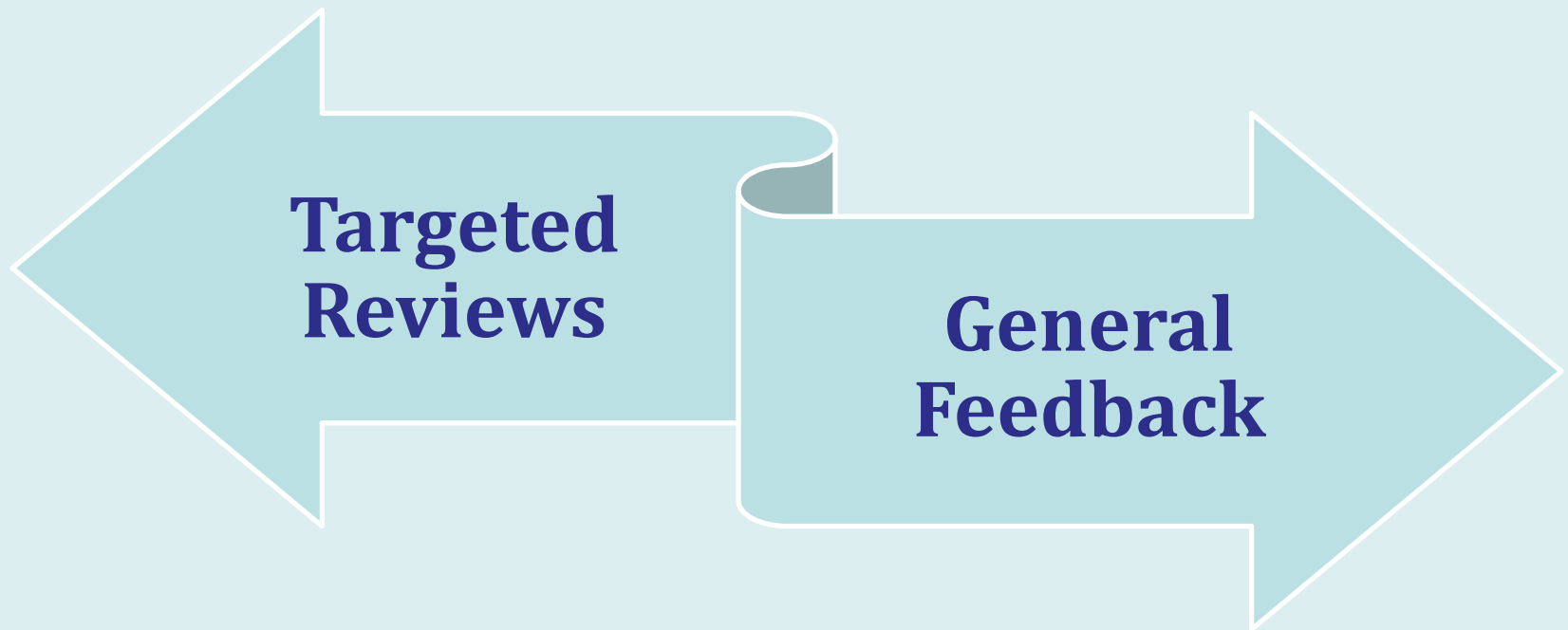
Common Misconceptions

- ERA is retrospective
- ERA recognises interdisciplinary research
- ERA methodology is transparent
- ERA is comprehensive, extensive and detailed

Discipline Specific Information

Discipline	FoR	A*	A	B	C
Immunology	1107	7%	14%	24%	55%
Plant Biology	0607	3%	8%	14%	74%
Ecology	0602	9%	18%	36%	37%
Zoology	0608	1%	7%	18%	73%
Historical Studies	2103	6%	22%	32%	38%
Electrical and Electronic Engineering	0906	6%	16%	28%	49%
Macromolecular and Materials Chemistry	0303	14%	19%	31%	36%

ERA 2010 Review



ERA 2010 Review

Targeted Reviews

Research Evaluation Committees (REC) process

ERA Submission Guidelines

Applied Indicators

Ranked Outlets

ERA 2010 Review

General Feedback

Low-volume threshold & outputs

Fields of Research for ERA clusters

2-digit and 4-digit evaluation

3-year reference period
(income, applied and esteem)

ERA 2010 Review

General Feedback (cont'd)

Researcher eligibility - definition

Rules for inclusion:

Reg. Designs

Patents

Licences

Com. Income

Discipline Matrix

UPDATE – Information Technology (IT)

**System
enhancements**

IT support

**Next
12 months**

ERA

NCGP

IT System Enhancements

- Virtualised environment – mirrored across the two sites
 - Shorter outages for major system upgrades
 - Better disaster-recovery capability
- Database systems upgraded
 - Removing complexity
 - Improving performance.

IT Support for ERA

- ☺ SEER performed as expected for ERA 2010
 - Known defects addressed
 - System upgraded
- Ranked Outlets Consultation Interface (ROCI)
- No significant SEER changes planned for ERA 2012

IT Support for NCGP

- RMS
 - Overall support for new ARC schemes (DECRA and RITA)
 - New assignment module for assessors
 - New assessment module to support A to E
- GAMS
 - Decommissioning in late 2011
 - Processes replaced with a web application

IT – Next 12 months

- Inclusive peer-review process (web meeting)
- Redesign elements of RMS
 - Improve performance for assessors
 - Improve performance of the meeting module
- Automate post-award processes
- Development of ‘people profiles’ to support selection of suitable assessors
- Development of business case to replace RMS and existing post-award systems

ARC – Useful Contacts

	Phone Number	Email
ARC - General	(02) 6287 6600	info@arc.gov.au
Media Enquiries	(02) 6287 6711	communications@arc.gov.au
ERA	(02) 6287 6755	era@arc.gov.au
NCGP	(02) 6287 6600	ncgp@arc.gov.au
RMS Helpdesk	(02) 6287 6789	rms@arc.gov.au



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