Excellence in Research for Australia

ERA 2010 and ERA 2012
University of Canberra
8 July 2011
Objectives of ERA

- Establish an *evaluation framework*;
- Provide a *national stock take* of discipline-level research;
- 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.
ERA 2010 outcomes: context

- ERA is a retrospective evaluation of research performance: 2003-2008 for research outputs, 2006-2008 for other data

- The ERA unit of evaluation is the discipline within the institution, not individual researchers or institutional units

- ERA does not rank institutions or units; each UoE is evaluated on its merits against the rating scale
The ERA Unit of Evaluation

- **The baseline** - the Discipline in an institution = Four-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) eg., 2101 Archaeology
- **The higher perspective** – the division in an institution = Two-digit Field of Research Code (ANZSRC) eg., 21 History and Archaeology
- 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.
Research outputs by two-digit FoR codes by type

Research outputs here are apportioned and unweighted
Consultations for ERA 2012

• ERA Public Consultation (11 March to 7 April 2011) – open consultation on issues including reporting, indicators, eligibility, discipline matrix
• Outreach sessions with institutions and peak bodies
• Detailed feedback from ERA 2010 REC members and peer reviewers
• Feedback from institutions on processes
Changes to journals and conferences

- Refined journal and conference indicator for ERA 2012
- Ranks will not be used, instead outputs profiled by most frequent journals and conferences in the UoE, with drilldowns available as in 2010
- ARC will still produce a journal list – will not include rankings but will include FoR codes for citation analysis
- Strong feedback that ranked lists were having negative consequences in the sector
- ARC analysis suggested a refined indicator would produce improved results while removing negative consequences
# 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>University of X</td>
<td>1801</td>
<td>Law</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Law and Medicine</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Law Review</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Journal of Administrative Law</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law in Context</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Journal of Family Law</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Company and Securities Law Journal</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Torts Law Journal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law and Policy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Journal of the Legal Profession</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Journal of Corporate Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Journal of Labour Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Journal of Judicial Administration</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Law Review</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>43%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Forensic Science International</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>45%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Legal Theory</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue Law Journal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AIAL National Lecture Series on Administrative Law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>InterTax: International tax review</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>465</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please note that this is not based on any university's submission to ERA 2010.
Interdisciplinary research

- Journal articles with ≥66% content in a discipline can be apportioned to that discipline
- Approach was successfully trialled in 2010 for Mathematics
- Allows stronger recognition of interdisciplinary and applied research
- Aligns journals with all other types of outputs which already used this approach in 2010
Raising the threshold

• Low volume threshold for peer review disciplines raised to 50 apportioned weighted outputs (maintaining the 5:1 weighting for books)
• Threshold remains the same for citation analysis disciplines
• Aligns all disciplines at 50 outputs
• Recognises strong feedback from sector and from 2010 evaluators
• ERA units need sufficient volume
Eligibility of fractional staff

• Fractional staff: minimum 40% appointment at ERA census date
• Those below 40% can still submit with by-line or similar requirement (similar to existing approach for casuals)
• Addresses concern about ERA-driven “poaching”
• Recognises that in many cases those below 40% are legitimately employed – their outputs can still be submitted
Capturing applied research

- Patents, plant breeder’s rights and registered designs assigned to individuals now eligible for submission
- Strong feedback that some applied work was not being captured
- Not all institutions register these measures to the institution
ERA 2012 – still to do

• Recruitment of Research Evaluation Committees
• Expansion of peer reviewer pool (including internationals)
• Further enhancement of the peer review indicator (nomination of outputs, reporting by reviewers)
• Selection of citation data provider (approach to market)
• Draft Submission Guidelines to be issued to the sector in July for comment
Further information

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