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

ERA 2010 National Report
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 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

## Example of the draft refined journal indicator forFoR 1801 for University X

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journal title</th>
<th>Papers</th>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Cumulative</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>University of X</strong></td>
<td>1801</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Journal title</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 Journal of Law and Medicine</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 Public Law Review</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>12%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 Australian Journal of Administrative Law</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 Law in Context</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Australian Journal of Family Law</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6 Company and Securities Law Journal</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3%</td>
<td>26%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7 Torts Law Journal</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 Contemporary Issues in Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9 Law and Policy</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 International Journal of the Legal Profession</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>34%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11 Australian Journal of Corporate Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>36%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12 Australian Journal of Labour Law</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13 Journal of Judicial Administration</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>40%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Federal Law Review</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>42%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>43%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16 Forensic Science International</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>45%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17 Legal Theory</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Revenue Law Journal</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>47%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 AIAL National Lecture Series on Administrative Law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20 Intertax: International tax review</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>465</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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• Email: era@arc.gov.au

• Hotline: 02 6287 6755