



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

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

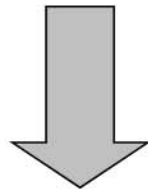
The ERA Unit of Evaluation

- 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

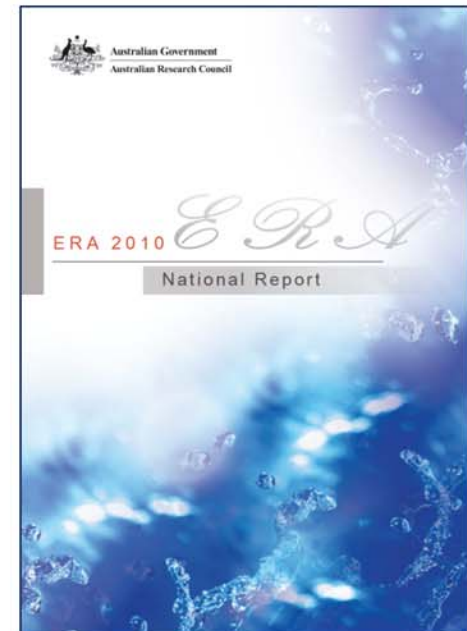
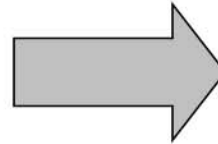
ERA Process Overview

- Volume and Activity
- Journal Quality
- Citation analysis or peer review
- Research Income
- Applied Measures
- Esteem

**Please note –
no weightings**

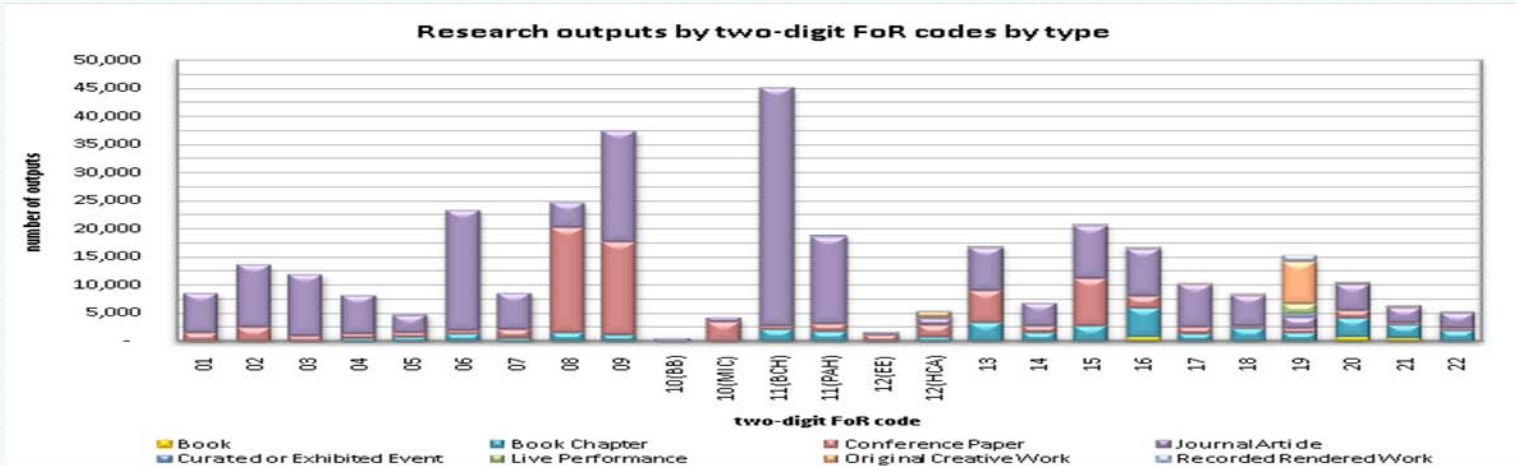
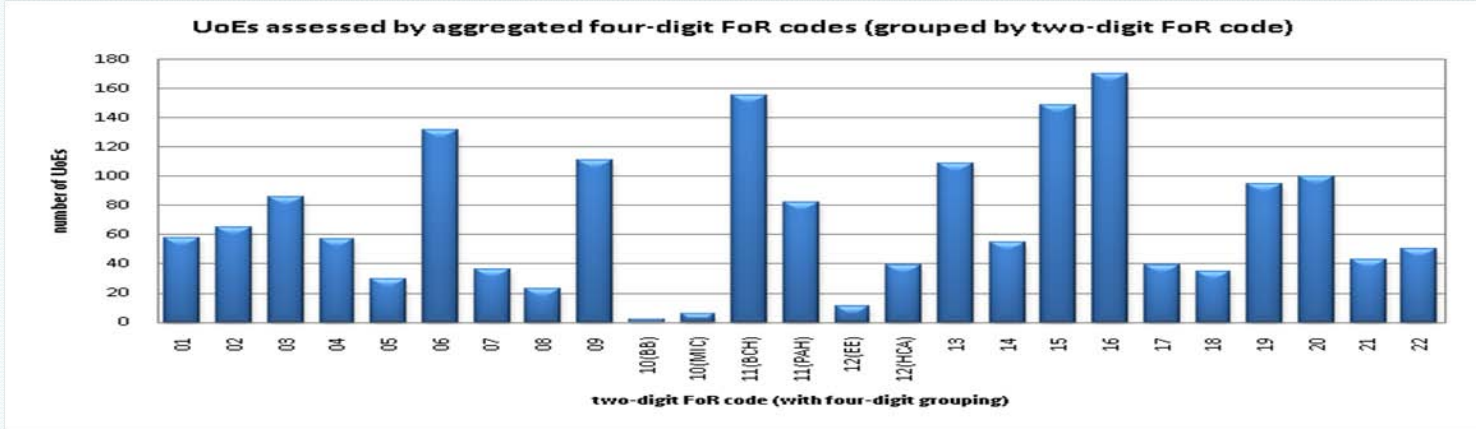


**Research Evaluation
Committee**

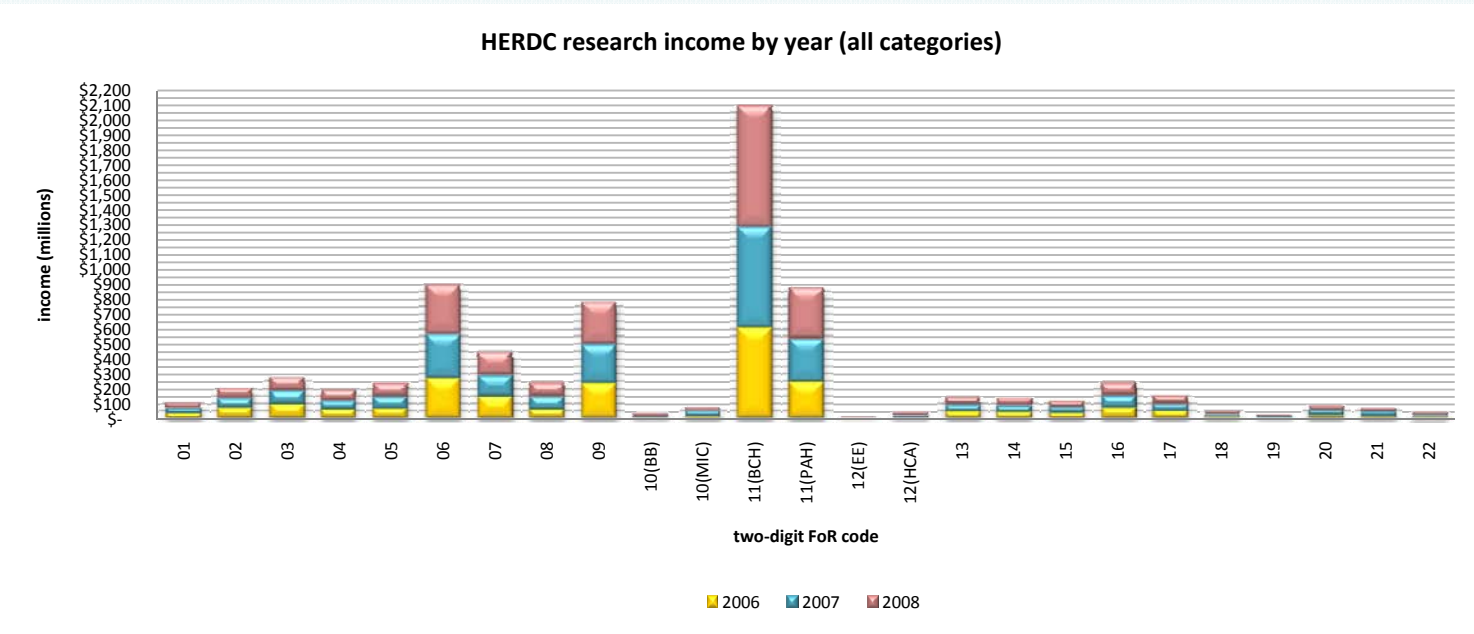
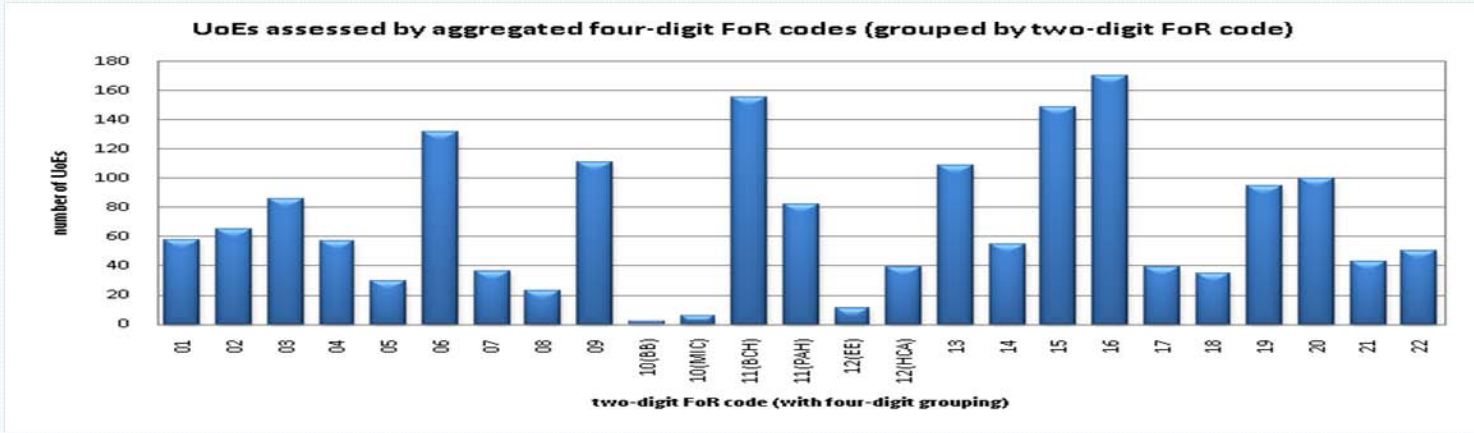


Scale of ERA 2010

- 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 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 for FoR 1801 for University X				
University of X		1801	Law	
	Journal title	Papers	Contribution	Cumulative
1	Journal of Law and Medicine	27	6%	6%
2	Public Law Review	27	6%	12%
3	Australian Journal of Administrative Law	24	5%	17%
4	Law in Context	18	4%	21%
5	Australian Journal of Family Law	15	3%	24%
6	Company and Securities Law Journal	12	3%	26%
7	Torts Law Journal	9	2%	28%
8	Contemporary Issues in Law	9	2%	30%
9	Law and Policy	9	2%	32%
10	International Journal of the Legal Profession	9	2%	34%
11	Australian Journal of Corporate Law	9	2%	36%
12	Australian Journal of Labour Law	9	2%	38%
13	Journal of Judicial Administration	9	2%	40%
14	Federal Law Review	9	2%	42%
15	Australian Journal of Legal Philosophy	6	1%	43%
16	Forensic Science International	6	1%	45%
17	Legal Theory	6	1%	46%
18	Revenue Law Journal	6	1%	47%
19	AIAL National Lecture Series on Administrative Law	6	1%	48%
20	Intertax: international tax review	6	1%	50%
	Total	465		
<i>Please note that this is not based on any university's submission to ERA 2010</i>				

Interdisciplinary research

- Journal articles with $\geq 66\%$ 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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