



Australian Government  
Australian Research Council

# ***Creative Arts and the new ERA***

**The Australian Council of University Art &  
Design Schools - national annual conference**

**Liz Visher, Director, Outreach  
Research Excellence Branch  
Australian Research Council**





## ERA will...

Assess research quality within Australia's higher education institutions using a combination of indicators and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts





## ERA aims to...

Have the confidence of the research community

Identify excellence across all areas of research

Minimise the burden on those making submissions and those doing the evaluations





# Clusters

- Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences (PCE);
- **Humanities and Creative Arts (HCA);**
- Engineering and Environmental Sciences (EE);
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences (SBE);
- Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences (MIC);
- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology (BSB);
- Biomedical and Clinical Research (BCR); and
- Public and Allied Health and Health Services (PAHHS).





# Issues arising from the consultation

Following feedback from the sector, the Minister has agreed to the:

- The attribution of publications will be determined on the location of researchers as at staff census date (31 March 2008)
- Outputs from non-salaried staff will be included subject to eligibility criteria
- Australian competitive grants information will be collected for all disciplines
- collection of all ERA data at four-digit Field of Research code
- All clusters will use the same reference period for evaluation rather than a rolling reference period





# Challenges

- Appropriate selection of discipline-specific indicators
- Evaluation and reporting of inter-disciplinary research
- Inclusion of staff FTE and its potential use
- The selection and use of appropriate applied research indicators and translation of research outcomes





# Indicators - proposed approach

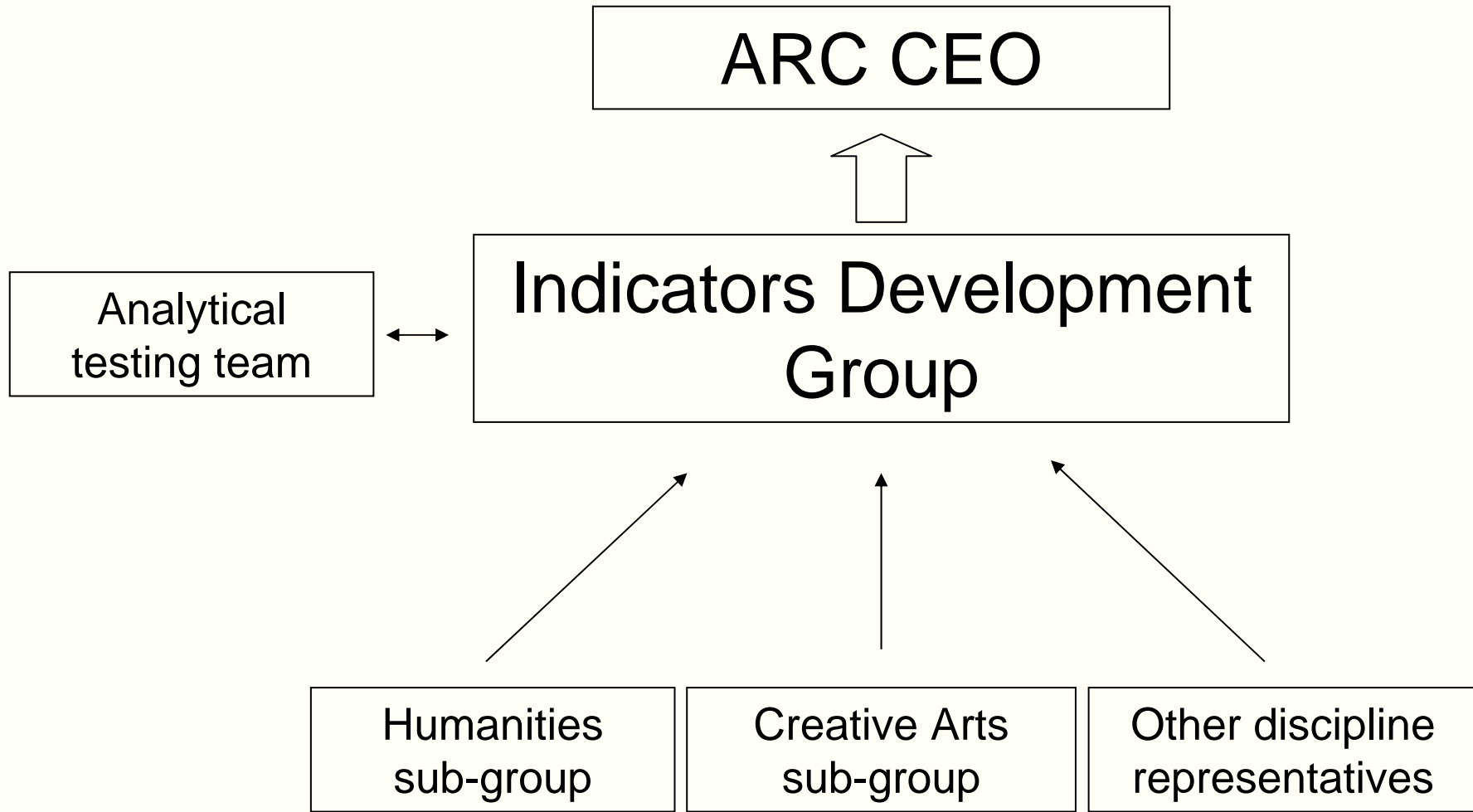
ERA will use discipline-specific indicators to assess research where appropriate

One of these indicators is discipline-specific tiered outlet rankings, for which consultation has occurred

Indicator methodologies will be developed in accordance with international best practice

ERA indicator development is guided by the Indicators Development Group (IDG)







# Indicators Development Group

Comprises 12 experts to provide advice to the ARC across a range of indicators

Is supported by an analytical testing team, contracted to the ARC, to test various approaches using Australian data

Will make recommendations to the ARC CEO

Will take advice from discipline-specific representatives to ensure appropriate indicators are used for each discipline





# Indicators Development Group

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Institution</b>                                  |
|----------------------------|---|
| <b>Terry Nolan (Chair)</b> | <b>University of Melbourne</b>                      |
| <b>Tony Sheil</b>          | <b>Griffith University</b>                          |
| <b>Linda Butler</b>        | <b>Analytical Support Team</b>                      |
| <b>Ken Richardson</b>      | <b>University of Queensland</b>                     |
| <b>Patty Solomon</b>       | <b>University of Adelaide</b>                       |
| <b>Max King</b>            | <b>Monash University</b>                            |
| <b>Marcus Nichol</b>       | <b>National Health and Medical Research Council</b> |
| <b>Paula Callan</b>        | <b>Queensland University of Technology</b>          |
| <b>Tim Yapp</b>            | <b>CSIRO</b>  |
| <b>Jonathan Adams</b>      | <b>Evidence, UK</b>                                 |
| <b>Paul Hubbard</b>        | <b>Higher Education Funding Council of England</b>  |
| <b>Anthony van Raan</b>    | <b>Leiden University</b>                            |





# Indicators Development Group - outputs

ERA Indicator Principles

ERA Indicator methodologies

Discipline matrix





# Indicator principles

Multiple citation suppliers

Accrediting an output to institutions and to Fields of Research

Interdisciplinary research outputs

Where to use peer review

Using expert review - combining indicator profiles to derive an overall 'Excellence Profile'





# Indicator methodologies

Example - methodology for deriving the citation benchmarks to enable international benchmarking

Outlines the calculations which will be made for each indicator for transparency purposes





# Indicator Matrix (example only)

|                       | discipline 1 | discipline 2 | discipline 3 | discipline 4 | discipline 5 | discipline 6 | discipline 7 | discipline 8 | discipline 9 | discipline 10 | discipline 11 | discipline 12 | discipline 13 | discipline 14 |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ranked Journals       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        |
| Ranked Publishers     |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |               | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        |
| Ranked Conferences    |              |              |              | shaded       |              | shaded       |              |              | shaded       |               |               |               |               |               |
| Ranked Curated Events |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |              |               | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        |
| Citation Analysis     | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       |              | shaded       | shaded        |               |               |               |               |
| Research Income       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded       | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        |
| Patents               |              |              |              | shaded       | shaded       |              |              |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |
| Plant Breeders Rights |              |              |              |              | shaded       |              |              |              |              |               |               |               |               |               |
| Peer Review           |              |              |              |              |              |              | shaded       | shaded       |              |               | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        | shaded        |





# Challenges for the Creative Arts and Humanities

In the consultation phase it was identified that the standard journal rankings and citation analyses were not always relevant for disciplines within the Creative Arts and Humanities.

To ensure that appropriate indicators are identified for the Creative Arts and Humanities, the ARC has established a Creative Arts sub-group and a Humanities sub-group to advise the IDG.





## IDG sub-groups

The members of the sub-groups are distinguished researchers who bring both a national and international perspective and considerable experience of world class research.

Each member has considerable experience in the Creative Arts and/or Humanities.





# Creative Arts sub-group

| <b>Name</b>                | <b>Institution</b>                  |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Margaret Seares<br>(Chair) | University of Western Australia     |
| Desley Luscombe            | University of Technology,<br>Sydney |
| Su Baker                   | University of Melbourne             |
| Dennis Del Favero          | University of New South Wales       |
| Huib Schippers             | Griffith University                 |
| Ann Stephen                | Powerhouse Museum                   |





# Creative Arts considerations

The Creative Arts sub-group is currently considering:

1. The research component of the research output.
2. The issues relating to peer review.
3. What indicators may be good proxies for research quality.
4. If there are good applied indicators.
5. A range of possible ranked outlets other than ranked journals, including ranked publishers, curated events and commissioned works.
6. If there are any quality-based esteem measures that are robust and quantitative.





# ERA Definition of Research

For the purposes of ERA, research is defined as the creation of new knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings. This could include synthesis and analysis of previous research to the extent that it is new and creative. This definition of research is consistent with the broad notion of research and experimental development (R&D) as comprising “creative work undertaken on a systematic basis in order to increase the stock of knowledge of humanity, culture and society, and the use of this stock of knowledge to devise applications.”





# Humanities sub-group

| Name                     | Institution               |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Stuart Macintyre (Chair) | University of Melbourne   |
| Tim Murray               | La Trobe University       |
| Moira Gatens             | University of Sydney      |
| Cheryl Saunders          | University of Melbourne   |
| Graeme Turner            | University of Queensland  |
| Margaret Harris          | University of Sydney      |
| John Byron               | Academy of the Humanities |
| Cliff Goddard            | University of New England |





# Humanities considerations

The Humanities sub-group is currently considering:

1. The issues relating to peer review.
2. What indicators may be good proxies for research quality.
3. If there are good applied indicators.
4. A range of possible ranked outlets other than ranked journals, including ranked publishers.
5. If there are any quality based esteem measures that are robust and quantitative.





# ERA/SEER Pilot

Is confined to the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences Disciplines (Cluster 1)

The principles and procedures underlying the Pilot will inform the formal ERA technical processes

Only collecting data from institutions. No analysis will be conducted of data for the Pilot





Using an ARC-developed IT system, known as the System to Evaluate the Excellence of Research (SEER)

Institutions participating in the ERA Pilot are able to submit data from Wednesday 1 October until Friday 14 November 2008





# What is next?

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# Journal Rankings consultation

- 116 submissions received
- 35 Australian university submissions
- Other submissions
  - Peak bodies and associations
  - Publishers
  - Medical Research Institutes
  - Individuals





# Journal Rankings - reviewing feedback

- Data cleansing
- ARC review
- Expert review
- Further review by stakeholders
- Analytical testing
- International review

