



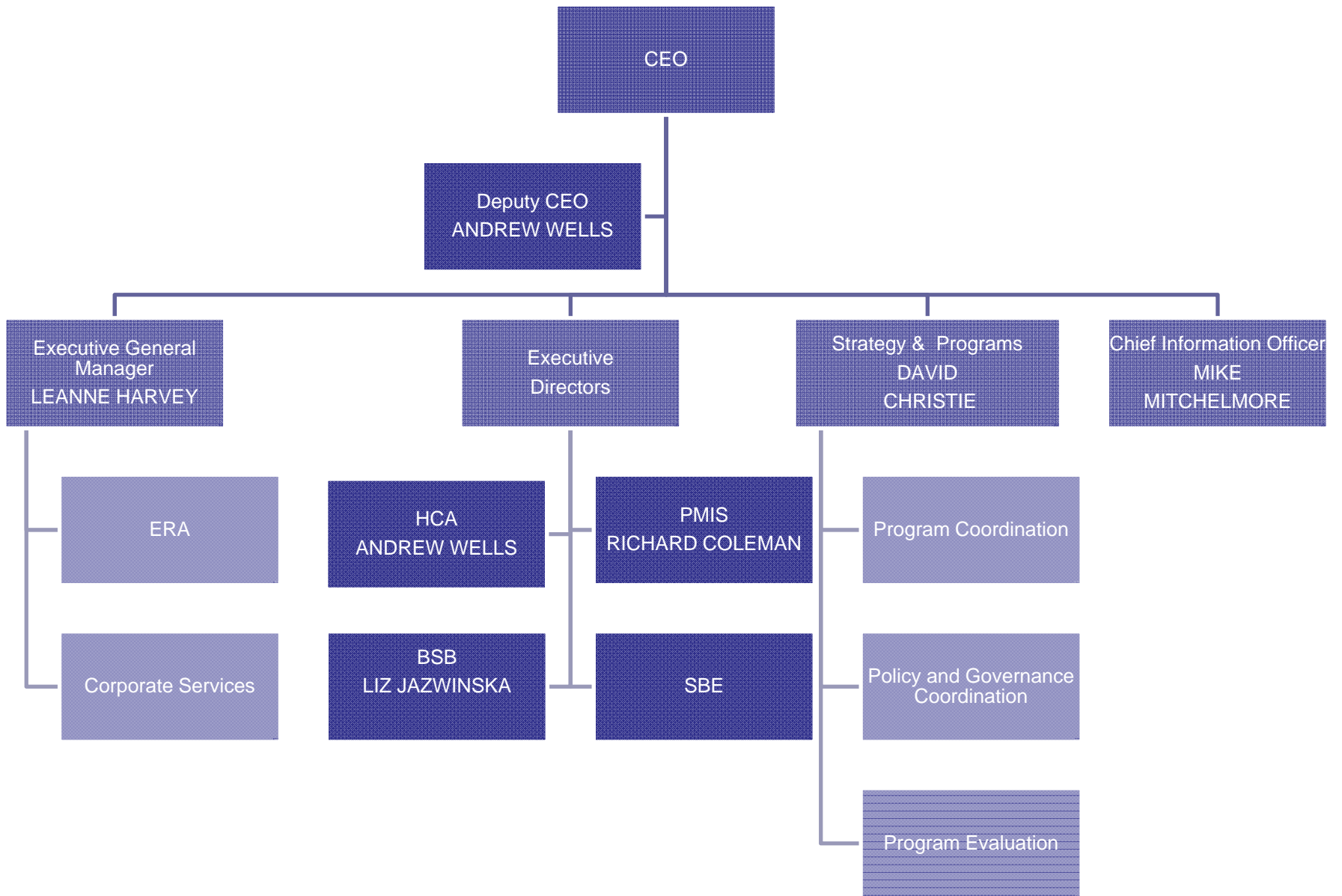
**Australian Government**  
**Australian Research Council**

**22 July 2010**



**Universities Australia**

**DVC Rs**



## ERA 2010 – What happens next

- Stage 2 Finalisation (DVC (R))
- Stage 3 Online Certification (VC)
- Stage 4 Hard-copy Certification (VC)

## ERA Helpdesk– Statistics so far .....

- >1900 queries this year.
  - 97% answered within the week
  - 69% answered within a day
- Fortnight beginning 03 July - 167 queries

# ARIC Update

The Australian Research Integrity Committee arises from *The Code for the Responsible Conduct of Research*.

Research misconduct includes falsification, fabrication or plagiarism of research data or results.

Provides an external body that will review whether institutional processes for dealing with research misconduct were followed properly.

## ARIC Next Steps

- Collaboration with the NHMRC
- Examination of research integrity more broadly
- Revision of the Framework

## Update – Open Access

- Relaxation of *ARC Linkage Project* funding rule restrictions on publication costs
- Infrastructure (repositories) in place
- Researchers are key
- Next step: Strengthening of statement

# Research Workforce Strategy

*Meeting Australia's Workforce Needs: a consultation paper to inform the development of the Australian Government's research workforce strategy (28 June 2010).*

ERA's contribution:

- Aligning research training provision with research strengths
- Facilitating development of national HDR programs



Australian Government  
Australian Research Council

David Christie



Executive Director – Strategy and Programs

ARC Centre of Excellence	Administering Organisation	Total approved funds over project life	Cash commitment from all Organisations* over project life	Cash commitment from all Organisations* as % of ARC requested funds over project life
All-sky Astrophysics	The University of Sydney	\$20,600,000	\$7,514,280	34.3%
Climate System Science	The University of New South Wales	\$21,400,000	\$9,510,383	34.0%
Core to Crust Fluid System	Macquarie University	\$12,400,000	\$13,580,400	57.4%
*Engineered Quantum Systems	The University of Queensland	\$24,500,000	\$14,615,521	54.2%
Environmental Decisions	The University of Queensland	\$11,900,000	\$7,152,740	29.7%
Geotechnical Science and Engineering	The University of Newcastle	\$14,400,000	\$8,225,000	29.4%
History of Emotions	The University of Western Australia	\$24,250,000	\$6,112,122	23.6%
Particle Physics at the Tera-Scale	The University of Melbourne	\$25,200,000	\$8,344,000	29.8%
Plant Cell Wall Biology	The University of Adelaide	\$19,250,000	\$12,190,000	44.7%
Population Ageing Research	The University of New South Wales	\$12,700,000	\$8,037,750	39.5%
*Quantum Computation and Communication Technology	The University of New South Wales	\$24,500,000	\$11,604,750	41.4%
Study of Cognition and its Disorders	Macquarie University	\$21,000,000	\$7,989,411	30.5%
*Ultrahigh Bandwidth Devices for Optical Systems	The University of Sydney	\$23,800,000	\$9,238,831	35.5%
		<b>\$255,900,000</b>	<b>\$124,115,188</b>	<b>37.1%</b>



# Centres of Excellence - Success Rate by ARC Discipline Cluster

Panel*	EOIs considered	EOIs short-listed	Proposals considered	Proposals interviewed	Proposals approved	Proposal Success rate	Approved funds over project life (approved Proposals)
BSB	38	8	8	3	2	25.0%	\$31,150,000
EMI	23	6	6	2	1	16.7%	\$14,400,000
HCA	17	5	4	2	1	25.0%	\$24,250,000
PCE	19	9	9	8	7	77.8%	\$152,400,000
SBE	14	4	4	3	2	50.0%	\$33,700,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>41.9%</b>	<b>\$255,900,000</b>



# Centres of Excellence

## Centre Director - Success Rate by Gender

Centre Director	Proposals considered	Proposals approved	Success rate
Male	26	10	38.5%
Female	5	3	60.0%

*Evaluation*



# Australian Laureate Fellowships 2010

<b>Administering Organisation</b>	<b>Laureate Fellow</b>
James Cook University	1
Macquarie University	1
Swinburne University of Technology	1
The Australian National University	4
The University of Melbourne	2
The University of New South Wales	3
The University of Queensland	1
The University of Sydney	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>15</b>

*Research*



# Australian Laureate Fellowships 2010

## Stage in Career

Years since award of PhD	No. of considered proposals	% of considered proposals	No. of approved proposals	% of approved proposals
0-15 years	24	24.7	3	20
16-20 years	26	26.8	4	26.7
21/+ years	46	47.4	8	53.3
No PhD	1	1.1	0	0
TOTAL	97	11	15	100

# Australian Laureate Fellowships 2010

## Age Distribution of Candidates

Age cohort	No. of considered proposals	% of considered proposals	No. of approved proposals	% of approved proposals
< 40 years	10	10.3	3	20
40-49 years	38	39.2	4	26.7
50-59 years	33	34.0	6	40
60 / + years	15	15.5	2	13.3
Undisclosed	1	1.0	0	0
TOTAL	97	100	15	100

# Australian Laureate Fellowships 2010

- 97 proposals were considered for funding
- Overall success rate of 15.5 %
  - Seven proposals for Australians intending to return to Australia - one was funded
  - Ten proposals for foreign nationals - one was funded
  - Eighty for resident Australians - 13 are funded
- Seventeen female candidates - four are funded (record number but would still like to encourage more)

*Research*

# Enhancing Peer Review Processes

- The current structure incorporates:
  - College of Experts (they read 100+ proposals)
  - detailed (Ozreaders) (~20 proposals)
  - specialised assessors (Intreaders) (<5)
- Issues
  - weighting of different levels
  - reviewer fatigue and response
  - expertise matching

## Elements of a better system

- Ease the workload of assessors
- Facilitate the assignment of proposals to the most appropriate assessors
- Provide better support for multidisciplinary applications and applications involving research in emerging areas
- Improve the quality of the process with assessments from specialised reviewers receiving the highest weighting
- Better feedback for unsuccessful applicants

## Process to date

- Internal Working Group
- External Working Group
- Formal consultation process
- Research on processes used by overseas agencies
- Feedback from College and other assessors
- Workshops on Gender and Early Career Researchers



## Phased Reforms

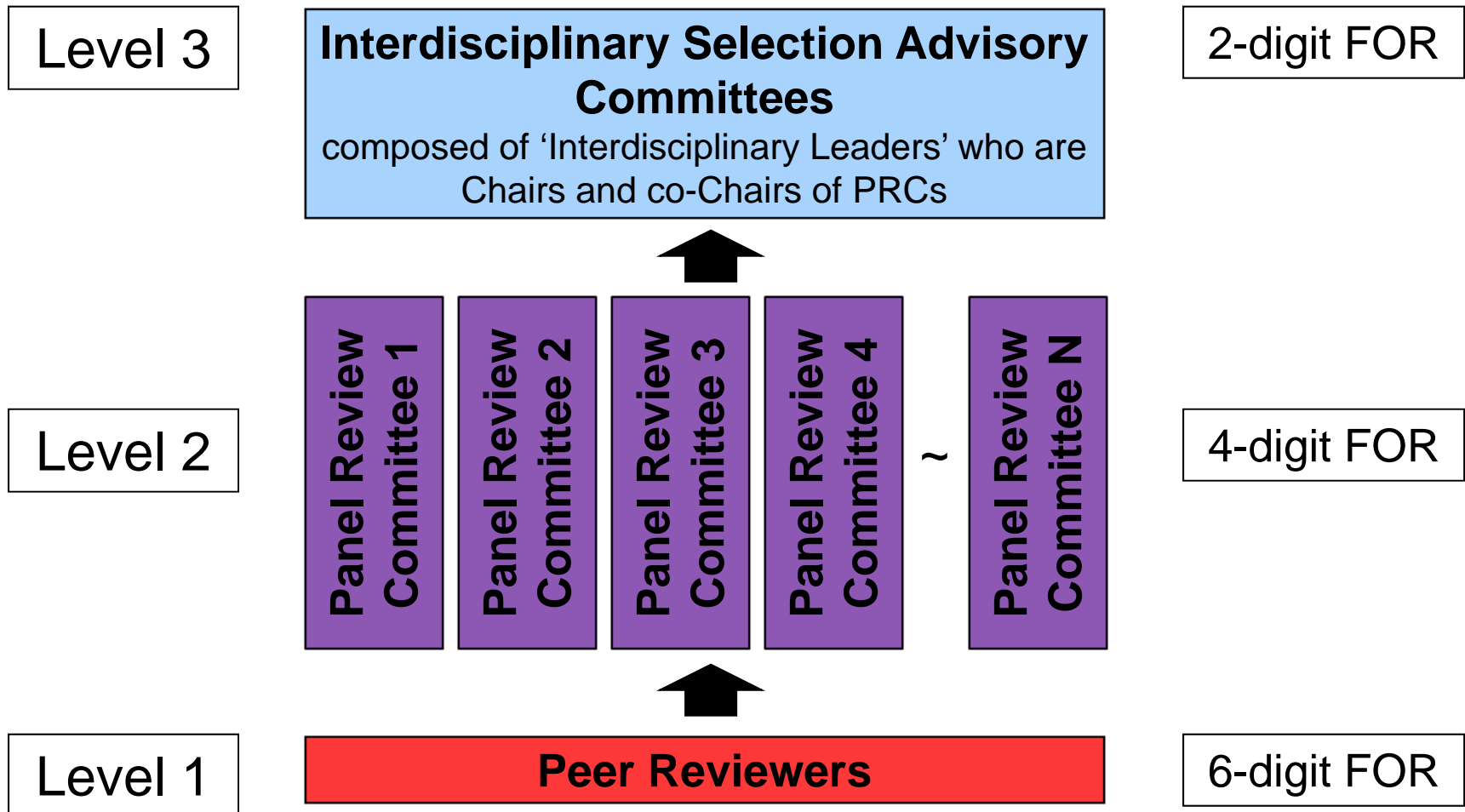
- Specialist Readers – Ozreaders, Intreaders and newly recruited national and international assessors
- Nominal limit for Specialist Readers = 15 assignments per year
- Combination of FoR; structured key words and project descriptions to facilitate assignments
- Consultation on structured key words
- Introduction of an A-E assessment system
- Final committee structure

## Outcomes so far...

- Major refresh of the database
- Some outcomes introduced already  
(eg ROPE)
- Elements this year in Future Fellowships
- College consolidation (from 6 to 5 committees)



# Final Structure



# Evaluation of *ARC Linkage Projects* scheme

- Evaluation being conducted with Universities and end users by KPMG through:
  - face-to-face interviews
  - teleconference interviews
  - written submissions
- Evaluation will assess the scheme performance in:
  - its impact, in terms of the benefits that accrue to higher education institutions and their researchers and partner organisations; and
  - its effectiveness in supporting the strategic directions and operational needs of higher education institutions and their researchers and partner organisations.

