



Message from the General Manager

Merry Christmas and welcome to the last *ERA News* for the year; and what a year it has been! We have made tremendous progress on the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all institutions for their cooperation and input in the ERA process this year.



It has been a busy year for ERA. Consultation and feedback have been a priority: we released and sought feedback on the *ERA Indicators Consultation Paper*, we trialed ERA and received feedback that has influenced the full ERA evaluations; and we received expert feedback from the Cluster One (Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences) and Cluster Two (Humanities and Creative Arts) Research Evaluation Committees on the ERA evaluation process.

We also steamed ahead with preparations for the full ERA with the release the *2010 ERA Submission Guidelines* and *ERA-SEER 2010 Technical Specifications*.



It is an exciting time and the trials have really shown that ERA is an important exercise that will assist the research sector now and in the future.

Again, thank you for your participation this year and we look forward to your participation in 2010. I'd like to wish everyone a very merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year.

Leanne Harvey

Cluster Two outcome reports and the conclusion of the ERA trial

The ERA Cluster Two trial outcomes were released on 14 December 2009. Institutional reports were sent to deputy/pro vice-chancellors, containing details of final ERA ratings and Research Evaluation Committee comments for each assessable Unit of Evaluation at the given institution.

The national report for Cluster Two was publicly released and can be viewed at www.arc.gov.au/era/trial.htm. The release of the Cluster Two outcome reports marks the end of the 2009 ERA trial.

The full ERA process
will begin on 1 June
2010

Documents for the full ERA process

The *ERA 2010 Submission Guidelines* and *ERA-SEER 2010 Technical Specifications* were released on 14 December 2009. These documents outline the rules and processes for institutions to prepare their submissions for the full ERA to commence in 2010 and are available at www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2010.htm.

Further to the release of these documents last week institutions, through ERA Liaison Officers and ERA Technical Officers, have been sent the ERA 2010 submission XML examples. The ERA-SEER 2010 Technology Pack has been updated to include these XML examples and will be available on the ARC website shortly at www.arc.gov.au/era/key_docs10.htm.

The full ERA process in 2010 will evaluate research in eight discipline clusters. Submissions for the full ERA process will begin on 1 June 2010.

ERA 2010 journal title and ranked conference list available

Release of journal title list

As noted in the November *ERA News*, the consolidated journal list has been provided to over 700 expert reviewers who assisted the ARC in developing the ERA 2010 journal list to allow for a final check of ranks and Field of Research (FoR) assignments. The final ranked journal list will be released to the sector in early February 2010 once reviewer feedback has been consolidated.

To assist institutions to prepare for the ERA 2010 evaluation, the ARC has released the full journal title list (without FoRs and ranks). This will allow institutions to check whether particular journals are on the list and to start preparing for ERA 2010 submissions. The journal title list includes the ERA Journal ID and the ISSN for each journal. The journal title list is final for ERA 2010 and is available at www.arc.gov.au/era/key_docs10.htm.

Ranked conference list released

The ARC has now released the ranked conference list for those disciplines where ranked conferences will be used as an indicator. Experts from the Information and Computing Sciences, Engineering and Built Environment and Design disciplines developed this list. It includes:

- conference title and acronym (where relevant);
- ERA ID—unique to each listed conference;
- up to three FoRs assigned to each conference; and
- a single quality rating for each listed conference of A, B, C or Unranked. Unranked conferences are legitimate conferences, but may not be of consistent quality, or may be too new to be assigned a quality tier.

The ranked conference list is available at www.arc.gov.au/era/key_docs10.htm.

Publication tagging update

For disciplines where citation analysis will be used, the ERA 2010 submission process requires a Scopus unique article identifier (electronic identifier EID) to be attached to each indexed journal article. To assist institutions to prepare for submission, Scopus is providing an EID tagging service.

The publication tagging service will open on 1 January 2010. From this date, institutions can upload journal article information to the Scopus ERA web portal at www.era2010eidtagging.com.

Institutions must register for the tagging service. Up to four staff per institution will be provided with usernames and passwords for the web portal. Usernames and passwords will be available from 1 January 2010. However, institutions can provide information about their nominated portal users to Scopus now.

More information about the citation supplier and the publication tagging process is available at www.arc.gov.au/era/citation.htm.