



## 2009 trials

On 3 August, Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer Professor Margaret Sheil announced the appointment of 17 distinguished researchers to the Cluster One Research Evaluation Committee (REC). The 17 REC members are internationally-renowned researchers who broadly represent the Cluster One disciplines. Esteemed academic Professor Mark von Itzstein from Griffith University has been appointed as Chair of the Cluster One Committee.

RECs form a vital part of the ERA evaluation process as they will undertake expert review of the data submitted for the ERA trial by Australia's higher education institutions.

Units of evaluation have been created from the Cluster One (Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences) submission data for assignment to the Cluster One REC for evaluation.

The submission phase of the trial of Cluster Two (Humanities and Creative Arts) opened on 3 August. There is just over one week left to submit, verify, finalise and certify Cluster Two trial submissions before the submission period concludes on Friday 21 August.

Congratulations to the institutions who have submitted their data for Cluster Two and thank you to those institutions who have provided information about their institutional repositories.

The Cluster Two REC for the trial will be announced shortly after the submission phase closes.

## Journal rankings

As mentioned in the last edition of *ERA News*, the ARC is currently working with over 400 Australian and international expert reviewers to finalise the journal list for the ERA evaluations in 2010.

A list of the journal titles that are currently included in the full ERA journal list will be available on the ARC website from 1 September 2009.

This list will include International Standard Serial Numbers (ISSNs) and is being published to assist researchers in identifying any journals to be added.

Institutions and other interested parties are invited to review the list and provide suggested additions through the *new journal form* on the ARC website. Rankings and Field of Research assignment will not be published until later in the year. This is an opportunity to ensure full coverage of titles.

Your feedback on this list will ensure all relevant journals are included in the final journal list for ERA in 2010.

### What constitutes a journal for ERA purposes?

For inclusion in ERA, a journal must have an ISSN and be a peer-reviewed, scholarly journal published during the ERA reference period.

## Outreach

The following presentations on ERA will be given by ERA staff during August and September.

- 13 August** - Monash University
- 28 August** - Wollongong University
- 8 September** - National Academies Forum Symposium on ERA
- 11 September** - Griffith University

If you have any up-coming events that you would like ERA staff to attend and present at, please email [era@arc.gov.au](mailto:era@arc.gov.au) or phone the ERA Helpdesk on **02 6287 6755**.

## Esteem indicators

In February this year, the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science, and Research, Senator Kim Carr, asked the ARC to investigate further the collection of esteem indicators, which will be included in the 2010 full ERA evaluations.

To assist this investigation, the ARC convened a group of six leading researchers to form an Esteem Indicators Group. The Group considered the application of esteem indicators to the 2010 full ERA process, including how the indicators add value to the evaluation process and how easily they can be collected and verified by institutions.

A consultation paper will be released for public comment shortly, along with the Esteem Indicator Group's report.

*ERA News* is emailed to ERA Liaison Officers and also published to the ARC website at [www.arc.gov.au](http://www.arc.gov.au) > *Research Excellence* > *ERA Newsletter*. The ERA Team appreciates feedback. If you have any comments or suggestions for this newsletter, please email [era@arc.gov.au](mailto:era@arc.gov.au) or phone 02 6287 6755.

## Your questions

### *How do I report casual staff for ERA?*

Some institutions have told us they are unsure about how to report casual staff for the Cluster Two trial. We have endeavoured to make sure that the eligibility requirements for the trial are as tightly defined as possible, to ensure consistent reporting across all institutions. Guidelines relating to the inclusion of casual staff were recently clarified in our FAQ, and are outlined below.

Casual staff are usually employed directly by an institution and should therefore be entered into SEER with the Employment Status of '1'. Using a business rule for the Cluster Two trial, SEER will check that a FTE value (between 0.1 and 1.0) has been entered for all staff with an Employment Status of '1'. Where the researcher meets criterion (c)(ii) within the researcher eligibility criteria, a FTE value for casual staff is not required.

If an institution wishes to submit data for casual staff, they may therefore either give them an Employment Status of '1' and enter a FTE value, or (ii) give them an Employment Status of '2' which does not require a FTE value to be entered. In both cases the casual staff member will be counted in the headcount for the relevant disciplines.

If you have a question about ERA, please email [era@arc.gov.au](mailto:era@arc.gov.au) or phone **02 6287 6755**.