



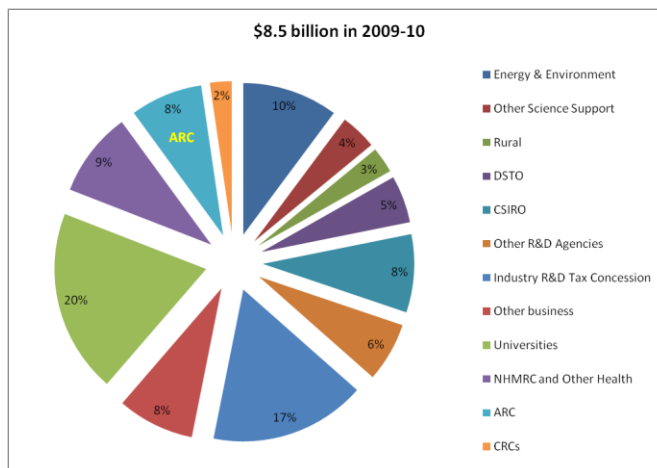
Australian Government
Australian Research Council

ARC Strategic Research and Funding

Ms Leanne Harvey
Executive General Manager

Research

Government Investment in Research





The ARC



Statutory Agency established 2001

Mission: *to deliver policy and programs that advance Australian research and innovation globally and benefit the community*

Funds direct costs to Universities and partners

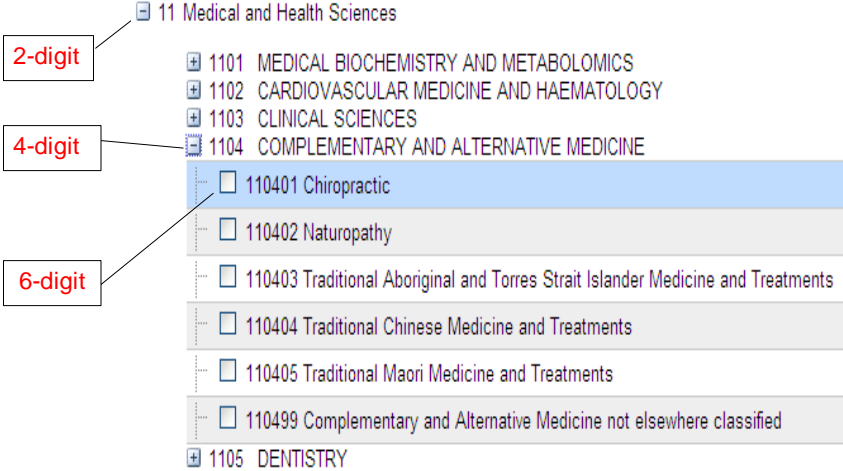
All disciplines except clinical medicine & dentistry

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ERA

ANZSRC FoRs



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National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP)

- Support for the highest-quality research leading to the discovery of new ideas and the advancement of knowledge
- Financial assistance towards facilities and equipment that researchers need to be internationally competitive
- Support for the training and skills development of the next generation of researchers
- Incentives for Australia's most talented researchers to work in partnership with leading researchers throughout the national innovation system and internationally, and to form alliances with Australian industry.

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NCGP Funding

- Funding for the NCGP in 2010-11 is \$708,733 million
- Recently announced \$376 million funding in Major Grants Announcement supporting 1126 innovative projects
- Announced \$255.9 million in 13 new *ARC Centres of Excellence* to commence in 2011

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NCGP Programs & Schemes

Discovery Program

Discovery Projects

*Discovery Indigenous
Researcher Development*

Future Fellowships

*Australian Laureate
Fellowships*

Linkage Program

Linkage Projects

*Linkage Infrastructure,
Equipment and Facilities*

*Linkage Learned Academies
Special Projects*

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NCGP Programs & Schemes

Centres

ARC Centres of Excellence

ARC Special Research Centres

*Co-funded Centres of
Excellence*

Special Research Initiatives

*Research in Bionic Vision
Science and Technology*

Stem Cell Science

Thinking Systems

EMBL

AAO Fellowships

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Expert & Peer Review

- College of Experts appointed across five Disciplines
- Selection Advisory Committees appointed for specific schemes
- Individuals of international standing
- Confidential assessment process
- Rigorous expert review and peer review processes
- Assessors make funding recommendations

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Expert & Peer Review – Discipline Panels

- Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
- Engineering Mathematics and Informatics
- Humanities and Creative Arts
- Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences
- Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences

Multi-disciplinary Proposals are managed across these Panels

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Expert & Peer Review

- Over 10,000 Assessors in ARC database currently
- Currently working to improve matching of Assessors to Proposals using Fields of Research (FoR) and keywords
- Increasing number of international Assessors

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Research Opportunity & Performance Evidence

- Focus on Early Career Researchers (ECRs) Proposals and success rates in previous years
- Feedback from the sector and Assessors
- Focus on differences in success rates by gender
- Fellowship eligibility, reduce overlap and increase opportunities

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New NCGP schemes in 2011

Discovery – Early Career Researcher Award

- ARC Discovery Program Consultation Paper launched Nov 3 2010
- Response from individuals or institutions by Dec 1 2010
- Response Pro-forma to DiscoveryConsultation@arc.gov.au

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New NCGP schemes in 2011

Research in Industry Training Award

- Part of the Clean 21 Initiative, \$23.4 million investment over 6 years
- Focus on emerging green industries and reducing environmental impact of existing industries
- Up to 100 awards in 2012 and up to 100 awards in 2014
- Valuable hands-on experience for postgraduate researchers
- Awards to institutions with research activity in key areas

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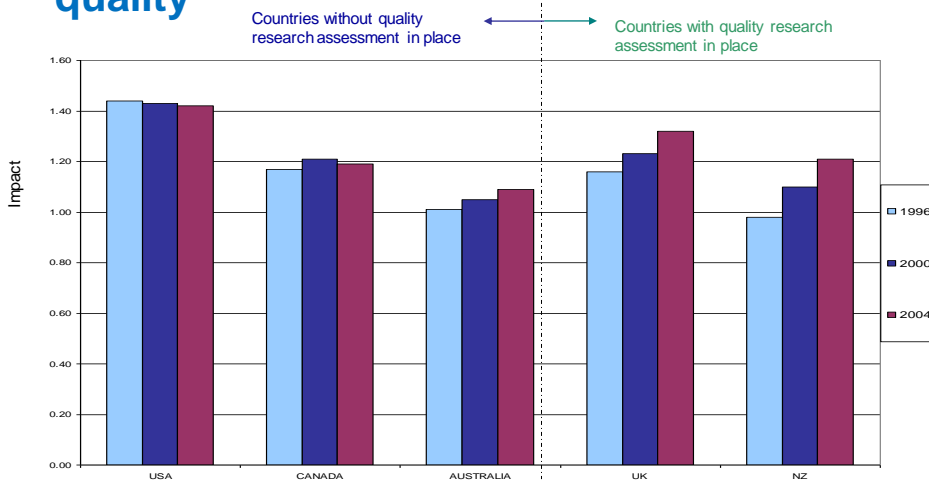


Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Why is research assessment important for Australia?

Research

Research assessment improves research quality



Source: Thomson ISI National Science Indicators



Quality assessment exercises overseas

1986—The United Kingdom

1993—Hong Kong

1997—Germany

1998—Ireland

2002—The Netherlands

2003—New Zealand

2005—France

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ERA

ERA: A world-leading initiative

- Assessment of ALL research undertaken in Australian universities over the past SIX years
- Evaluate this research by disciplines (157 + 22)
- Apply discipline matrices to ensure effective evaluation
- Capturing research element of creative output
- Cutting edge bibliometric indicators
- Use of institutional repositories

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The ERA Clusters

Cluster 1	Physical, Chemical & Earth Sciences
Cluster 2	Humanities and Creative Arts
Cluster 3	Engineering and Environmental Sciences
Cluster 4	Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences
Cluster 5	Mathematics, Information and Communication Sciences
Cluster 6	Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
Cluster 7	Biomedical and Clinical Research
Cluster 8	Public and Allied Health, and Health Sciences

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The ERA 2010 Rating Scale

Rating	Descriptor
5	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of outstanding performance well above world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
4	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance above world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
3	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of average performance at world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
2	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance below world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
1	The Unit of Evaluation profile is characterised by evidence of performance well below world standard presented by the suite of indicators used for evaluation.
NA	Not assessed due to low volume. The number of research outputs does not meet the volume threshold standard for evaluation in ERA.

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ERA 2010

Background Statement

Volume
and
Activity

Ranked
Outlets

Peer
Review

Citation
Analysis

Esteem
Measures

Research
Income

Applied
Measures

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Why a matrix approach to indicators?

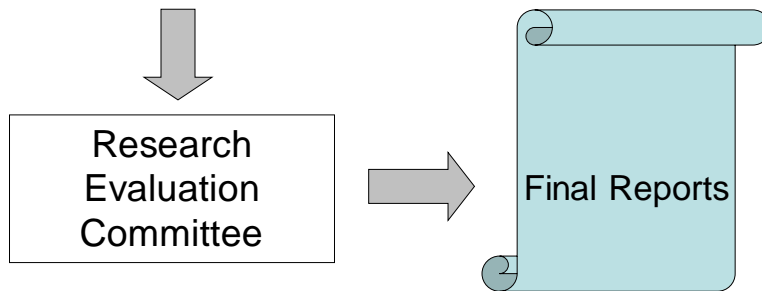
- Not all indicators are suitable for all disciplines
- Pick and choose what is right for each discipline
- The indicator suite must ensure comparable quality across a range of indicator types
- Journal Rankings are ONE indicator not THE indicator

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ERA Process Overview

Volume & Activity	Ranked Outlets
Citation Analysis	Esteem
Research Income	Applied Measures
Peer Review	

**Please note –
no weightings**



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Next round of ERA is in 2012

Research