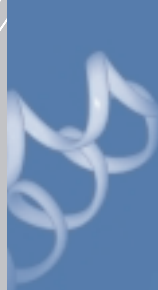


AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2001–02



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Australian Research Council
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9 October 2002

The Hon. Dr Brendan Nelson, MP
Minister for Education, Science and Training
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Minister

On behalf of the Board of the Australian Research Council (ARC), I have pleasure in presenting to you the ARC Annual Report 2001–02, as required by section 46 of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*.

The annual report has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines referred to in subsection 63(2) of the *Public Service Act 1999*. It includes information required by section 311A of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*, section 57 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*, section 8 of the *Freedom of Information Act 1982* and section 74 of the *Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Act 1991*.

I draw your attention to subsection 46(3) of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*, which requires that you place a copy of the report before each House of Parliament within fifteen sitting days of that House after the day on which you receive it.

Yours sincerely

Vicki Sara
Chief Executive Officer

Research in the National Interest - Enabling the Future

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GUIDE TO THE REPORT

This annual report documents the Australian Research Council's performance for the year ended 30 June 2002.

The report is structured as follows:

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

'Highlights of the Year' provides a quick guide to the major milestones of 2001–02. The Chairman, Mr Peter Wills, AC, provides an introductory statement and the Chief Executive Officer, Professor Vicki Sara, reviews the ARC's performance for the year.

CHAPTER 2: ARC OVERVIEW

The second chapter of the report provides an overview of the ARC, including its legislative basis, mission, key objectives, role and organisational structure. It also summarises the outcome and output structure of the ARC as outlined in the Minister's 2001–02 Portfolio Budget Statements.

CHAPTER 3: REPORT ON PERFORMANCE

The third chapter provides a report on the ARC's performance during the year. It includes an overview of the ARC's performance reporting framework, a report against the seven key objectives of the ARC as identified in the *ARC Strategic Action Plan 2002–04*, a summary of the key policy activities of the ARC during the year, and a summary of the agency's performance against the key performance indicators identified in the Strategic Action Plan.

CHAPTER 4: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

This section comprises a discussion of the agency's financial performance for 2001–02, a summary of the agency's resources, as well as the financial statements required under section 57 of the *Financial Management and Accountability Act 1997*. The financial statements have been audited by the Australian National Audit Office.

APPENDICES

This section contains appendices providing additional information about the ARC's programs (including grant statistics from the 2002 funding round), international activities and publications. It also provides information relating to the ARC's management and accountability structures and processes (including reports required under specific legislation relating to freedom of information, occupational health and safety, and ecologically sustainable development).

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This report is available on the ARC's Internet site at: www.arc.gov.au/publications/default.htm

Additional information about the Australian Research Council (including a copy of the *ARC Strategic Action Plan 2002–04*), can be found on our website at www.arc.gov.au. A copy of the 2001–02 Portfolio Budget Statements (of the then Minister for Education, Training and Youth Affairs) can be found on the website of the Department of Education, Science and Training at: www.dest.gov.au/Archive/publications/budget/budget01/default.htm.