
Guide to the Report

This annual report documents the performance of the Australian Research Council (ARC) for the year ended 30 June 2003. The report is structured as follows.

Chapter 1: Introduction

'Highlights of the year' provides a quick guide to the major milestones of 2002–03. The Chairman, Mr Tim Besley AC, provides an introductory statement, and the Chief Executive Officer, Professor Vicki Sara, reviews the ARC's performance for the year. The chapter ends with a summary of the ARC's contribution to implementing the Government's innovation action plan, *Backing Australia's Ability*.

Chapter 2: Overview

The second chapter of the report provides an overview of the ARC, including its mission, objectives, legislative basis, role and organisational structure. It also describes the outcome and output structure of the ARC as outlined in the Education, Science and Training Portfolio Budget Statements 2002–03.

Chapter 3: Report on Performance

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

Chapter 4: Corporate Management

This section comprises a discussion of the key elements of corporate management of the agency. It provides information on the organisational structure, accountability and ethical standards as well as people and resource management.

Chapter 5: Financial Statements

This section comprises 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 2003 funding round), international activities and publications. It also provides reports required under specific legislation relating to freedom of information, occupational health and safety, and ecologically sustainable development).

More information

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 Minister for Education, Science and Training's 2002–03 Portfolio Budget Statements (which includes the ARC) can be found on the website of the Department of Education, Science and Training at www.dest.gov.au/Archive/publications/budget/budget02.default.htm.

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

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