



Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA)

The ARC is responsible for administering the *Excellence in Research for Australia* (ERA) initiative, which aims to identify and promote excellence across the full spectrum of research activity in Australia's higher education institutions.

ERA assesses research quality within Australia's 41 higher education providers using a combination of indicators and expert review by committees comprising experienced, internationally-recognised experts.

The objectives of ERA are to:

- establish an evaluation framework that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australia's institutions;
- provide a national stocktake of discipline-level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australia's higher education institutions;
- identify excellence across the full spectrum of research performance;
- identify emerging research areas and opportunities for further development; and
- allow for comparisons of Australia's research nationally and internationally for all discipline areas.

The Australian Government is providing \$35.8 million over four years from 2009–10 for the *Excellence in Research for Australia* initiative.

The first full ERA process was completed in 2010. The *ERA 2010 National Report*, released on 31 January 2011, provides a rich picture of research in Australian universities by discipline. Another full round of ERA, which will allow Australia to track university research performance over time, will be conducted in 2012.

ERA outcomes are included as a key measure of performance in the Government's mission-based compacts with universities. ERA outcomes have informed the development of the Research Workforce Strategy and the allocation of funding to support the indirect costs of research through the Government's Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) program. ERA outcomes will also inform:

- The funding of research training through a modified Research Training Scheme (RTS); and
- The new minimum standards for higher education research and research training to be administered by the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA).

For more information visit www.arc.gov.au/era, email era@arc.gov.au or phone +61 2 6287 6675.