



Message from the Executive General Manager

As you will be well aware, the *Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2010 National Report* was released to much fanfare and comment on 31 January 2011.

This represented the first full evaluation of the ARC's *Excellence in Research for Australia* initiative, an enormous undertaking—and the first of its kind in Australia—to assess the quality of Australian research across disciplines, and across all Australian universities.



The depth of discussion and debate generated from its release also illustrates how seriously this review is being taken both here in Australia and internationally. It marked the beginning of new qualitative understanding of the scope of Australian research. All 41 Australian universities, and the work of over 55,000 researchers were assessed during this three-year process.

The *ERA 2010 National Report* has shown us that we have a large number of research strengths, as well as highlighting areas where we can improve. Importantly, it give us a good basis from which we can continue with the review of the 2010 process and as we move into the next round for 2012.

Since the ERA announcement, we have been busy visiting institutions for Compact visits and discussing their individual results through the ERA process. This has been a wonderful opportunity to meet and work together with universities not only on the 2010 results, but also how we move forward from here.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all involved in the massive undertaking which is the ERA initiative, and I look forward to continuing the team work and collaboration during 2011.

Leanne Harvey

The ERA National Report is
available on the ARC website at
http://www.arc.gov.au/era/era_2010.htm

Preparation for ERA 2012

The ARC has recently undertaken a range of review and consultation activities in preparation for ERA 2012.

We have reviewed our internal processes and procedures to see where we can further streamline them to reduce the data collection and reporting burden on institutions, and more broadly, to refine and improve the way we do things.

We have received feedback from Research Evaluation Committee members about the evaluation process. There has also been a large number of submissions to the ranked outlets public consultation, and the ARC is in the process of engaging peak bodies through an open tender process to undertake further work on the lists. The period for individual submissions on the ranked outlets closed on 4 April 2011.

We have also received a significant number of submissions through our online consultation via the ARC website. The online consultation closed on 7 April 2011. We are now reviewing all the submissions we received.

All of the feedback received thus far will be considered and will inform our preparation of a draft Discipline Matrix, which we will release for comment in May.

The ARC is very grateful for the higher education community's continued constructive engagement with the ERA process.

ERA News is emailed to ERA Liaison Officers and also published to the ARC website at www.arc.gov.au/era/era_news.htm. The ERA team appreciates feedback. If you have any comments or suggestions for this newsletter, please email era@arc.gov.au or phone 02 6287 6755.