

#33

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Page 1: Personal Details

Q1

Your name

Eric Brymer

Q2

Respondent skipped this question

Your organisation (leave blank if not applicable)

Q3

Are you making this submission on behalf of your organisation?

This submission reflects my personal views and not those of my organisation

Q4

Email address

eric.brymer@acap.edu.au

Q5

What best describes your interest in making a submission?

Other, Please describe.:

I am a researcher wanting to enhance the impact of research and increase inclusivity and multi-disciplinary work

Q6

Respondent skipped this question

Submissions may be made public unless you request otherwise.

Q7

Provide my responses through the online survey

What form of submission do you wish to make?

Page 2: Upload Response

Q8

Respondent skipped this question

Please upload your submission.

Page 3: ERA and/or EI choice

Q9**I want to answer questions on both ERA and EI**

Please indicate whether you wish to answer questions on ERA and/or EI.

Page 4: ERA Policy /1

Q10

To what extent is ERA meeting its objectives to:

Continue to develop and maintain an evaluation framework that gives government, industry, business and the wider community assurance of the excellence of research conducted in Australian higher education institutions.
Comment:

A moderate amount

Too much focus on measuring the quality of the journal to an extent that some disciplines even list journals that academics have to publish in. .. but EI require a different communication strategy. Of course the journal should be quality, peer reviewed etc. however, an amendment may achieve greater impact by being specific about choosing a relevant journal which may not be considered by others as Q1, A* or whatever measurement they use.

Provide a national stocktake of discipline level areas of research strength and areas where there is opportunity for development in Australian higher education institutions.
Comment:

A moderate amount

see above

Identify excellence across the full spectrum of research performance.
Comment:

A small amount

again - how is excellence measured . Is a well designed and rigorous study excellent because it has transformed communities or because it is placed in a high IF journal that no-one reads

Identify emerging research areas and opportunities for further development.
Comment:

A small amount

As above

Allow for comparisons of research in Australia, nationally and internationally, for all discipline areas.
Comment:

Not at all

the systems are not aligned and therefore not comparable

Q11**Agree**

The ERA objectives are appropriate for meeting the future needs of its stakeholders.

Page 5: ERA Policy /2

Q12

What impact has ERA had on:

the Australian university research sector as a whole

increased silos, micromanagement, false assessments of quality, decreased breadth of relevant areas to research

individual universities

created artificial measurement systems for employment and promotion and even for which research is worth supporting/ funding

researchers

reduced freedoms and professional development/ career development.

Other?

negatively impacted on engagement activities which might not fit the norms

Q13

Respondent skipped this question

How do you, or your organisation use ERA outcomes?

Q14

ERA outcomes are valuable to you or your organisation.

Disagree,

Do you have any suggestions for enhancing ERA's value to you/your organisation?:

if we are about impacting on communities etc then how do we best measure this ..is it best to publish in high IF journals, HOD lists of journals even though no-one will read it or can we publish in specialist journals that will be read etc. t

Q15

How else could ERA outcomes be used?

EI outcomes should guide research activities. e.g KTPs in the UK. That is not to say EI should be used to devalue basic research but that even basic research needs to be eventually aligned with a community value of sorts .. may be measuring EI should be the focus rather than an add on?

Page 6: ERA Methodology /1

Q16

The current methodology meets the objectives of ERA.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:

how can we improve to encourage multi-disciplinary outcomes though .. where art and science can join hands?

Q17

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the overall ERA methodology?

Strengths

attempts to measure

Weaknesses

seems to miss out on longer relationships even if not funded

Q18

Does the discipline-specific approach for evaluating research quality (citation analysis or peer review for specific disciplines) continue to enable robust and comparable evaluation across all disciplines?

NO

citation is not linked to impact if we are limiting this to academic measure, where a citation is and what it has facilitated might better capture this. How can we use this to encourage more research-industry partnerships?

Q19

The citation analysis methodology for evaluating the quality of research is appropriate.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

low quality research that is years old will have different citations journeys that new high quality. Emerging and evolving areas will have less citations but may have the greatest impact. collecting outputs does not help understand impacts or reach. even more problematic is if we then categorize outputs in some sort of quality continuum .. see point above re new and emerging research. What about the long term relationship work that has fundamentally transformed practice but without traditional citations etc.

Q20

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the citation analysis methodology?

Strengths

does try to collect outputs

Weaknesses

ends up measuring something that has no meaning

Q21

Can the citation analysis methodology be modified to improve the evaluation process while still adhering to the ERA Indicator Principles?

Yes,

If you answered 'Yes', please describe how the methodology could be improved.:

why two different approaches .. this limits disciplines in terms of where they are measured?

Q22

The peer review methodology for evaluating the quality of research is appropriate.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:

could it be strengthened with case studies on longevity ??

Q23

What are the strengths and/or weaknesses of the peer review methodology?

Strengths

flexible

Weaknesses

too short term

Q24

Can the peer review methodology be modified to improve the evaluation process while still adhering to the ERA Indicator Principles?

Yes,

If you answer 'Yes', please describe how the peer review methodology could be improved.:

long term measures

Page 7: ERA Methodology /2

Q25

The volume and activity indicators are still relevant to ERA.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

falls in t the on-size-fits all approach and does not allow for institutional differneces

Q26

The publishing profile indicator is still relevant to ERA.

Neither agree nor disagree**Q27**

The research income indicators are still relevant to ERA.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

not sure what this tells us ? .. that some ideas are better than others?

Q28

The applied measures are still relevant to ERA.

Patents

Comment:

Agree

importnat to have a broader impact on the reserch activities

Research commercialisation income

Comment:

Agree

as above

Registered designs

Comment:

Agree

as above

Plant breeder's rights

Comment:

Agree

as above

NHMRC endorsed guidelines

Comment:

Neither agree nor disagree

too specfic and limited again

Page 8: ERA Methodology /3

Q29

The five-band ERA rating scale is suitable for assessing research excellence.

Strongly disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

it is irrelevant and like comparing apples with oranges especially as some systems abroad are designed around flexibility and more able to encourage creativity and so forth

Q30

Noting that 90% of units of evaluation assessed in ERA 2018 are now at or above world standard, does the rating scale need to be modified to identify research excellence?

Yes,

If you answered 'Yes', please explain how the rating scale can be modified to identify research excellence.:

notably many international systems are no longer focusing on tis type of measure in the same way.

Q31

The ERA low volume threshold is appropriate.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

we need to encourage creative and a broad set of possible solutions to the big problems ..

Q32

Are there ways in which the low volume threshold could be modified to improve the evaluation process?

Respondent skipped this question

Q33

What is the more appropriate method for universities to claim research outputs—staff census date or by-line?

Please explain your answer.:

depends if we are measuring university or research .. research should not be constrained by university walls and some universities might want to specialize ..like football clubs. Maybe a third way is needed! - linking census with an historical journey such as impact case study?

Q34

What are the limitations of a census date approach?

could encourage poaching and limit recognition of certain research activities.

Q35

Would a by-line approach address these limitations?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

partially - poaching may be limited

Q36

What are the limitations of a by-line approach?

may not capture everything

Q37

ERA adequately captures and evaluates interdisciplinary research.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

discourages it because the ERA is interested by discipline/ school etc within a university structure .. which means they will only support what is good for them. EG the business schools publishing list .. if an academic from tourism collaborated with psychology and published in psychology it is problematic for the tourism scholar .

Q38

If you disagreed with the previous statement, how could interdisciplinary research best be accommodated?

et rid of the silo measures and traditional academic measures and look for ways of measuring how research impacts on community more broadly and over the longer term

Q39

My institution would meet ERA low volume threshold in Indigenous studies at:

Two-digit	No
Four-digit	No

Q40

In ERA, the best approach for evaluating Indigenous Studies is (choose one):

Other (please describe).: what is relevant to indigenous communities?

Q41

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of your preferred approach for evaluating Indigenous studies in ERA?

Advantages	specific and relevant to communities
Disadvantages	does not fit the current ERA constraints

Page 10: ERA Process /1

Q42

ERA should move to an annual collection of data from universities.

Strongly disagree,
Please explain your answer.:
again too short term and irrelevant for long term impact

Q43

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of an annual data collection.

Advantages	none
Disadvantages	expense of long term impact

Q44

In future ERA rounds, should the volume of outputs submitted for each unit of evaluation be published?

No,
Please explain your answer.:
what is the relevance? aren't we supposed to be thinking quality and impact?

Q45

In future ERA rounds, research outputs should be published with their assignment to specific disciplines following completion of the round.

Strongly disagree,
Please explain your answer.:
discourages cross/ multi/ inter disciplinary work .. even if not meant to

Q46

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of publishing research outputs with their assignment to specific disciplines?

Advantages

none

Disadvantages

creates silos again

Q47

What other data do you think the ARC should publish following an ERA round? (Note - in ERA 2018 metadata included: Research output title, Research output type, reference year, outlet, publisher, ISBN, ERA round, and Institution)

how themes have impacted on communities ...

Page 11: EI Policy /1

Q48

Considering that EI is a new assessment, to what extent is EI meeting its objectives to:

encourage greater collaboration between universities and research end-users, such as industry, by assessing engagement and impact?

Comment:

A small amount

not considered important enough by universities who want to focus on a micro academic measure of impact

provide clarity to the Government and the Australian public about how their investments in university research translate into tangible benefits beyond academia?

Comment:

A small amount

again .. not considered important enough and long term relationships are not emphasised . may be we need existing and emerging case studies?

identify institutional processes and infrastructure that enable research engagement?

Comment:

A small amount

see above

promote greater support for the translation of research impact within institutions for the benefit of Australia beyond academia?

Comment:

A small amount

see above

identify the ways in which institutions currently translate research into impact?

Comment:

A small amount

see above

Page 12: EI Policy /2

Q49

The EI objectives are appropriate for the future needs of its stakeholders.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

wording seems to be from university out (university centric) rather than community in (community centric) .. so to speak

Q50

What impact has EI had on:

the Australian university research sector as a whole

not much in terms of how research is supported and measured within institutions

Individual Universities

as above

Researchers

constrained by above

Other sectors outside of academia?

need more support

Q51

Respondent skipped this question

How do you, or your organisation, use EI outcomes?

Q52

The EI outcomes are valuable to you or your organisation.

Strongly disagree,

Please explain your answer:
but they should be

Q53

How else could EI outcomes be used?

to encourage collaboration and partnerships more broadly e.g. KTPs in the UK and many European initiatives

Page 13: EI Policy /3

Q54

The current Engagement definition is appropriate.

Agree,

If you don't agree, what are your suggested amendments to the Engagement definition?:
but could be more 'end-user' centric and perhaps this word needs a revisit?

Q55

The current Impact definition is appropriate.

Disagree,

If you don't agree, what are your suggested amendments to the Impact definition?:
wishy washy .. I like these better
<https://esrc.ukri.org/research/impact-toolkit/what-is-impact/>

Q56

The current end-user definition is appropriate.

Disagree,

If you don't agree, what are your suggested amendments to the end-user definition?:
see above

Q57

Are there any end-user categories excluded in the current definition of research end-user that you think should be included? Please explain your answer.

university students? universities? academics? and surely if research enhances practice withing the excluded group it is til impactful and will eventually pas son to the broader community?

Q58

Are there other key terms that need to be formally defined?

Yes,

If you answered 'yes', please explain your answer.:
see definition above

Page 14: EI Methodology /1

Q59

Are the two-digit Field of Research codes the most appropriate method to define units of assessment for Engagement and Impact?

No,

Please explain your answer.:
too narrow

Q60

Are there other ways to classify units of assessment in EI, for example SEO codes?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:
but why do this? keep it broad measure cross university and perhaps even inter-university collaboration and long term impact

Q61

Should there be more or fewer units of assessment per university?

More units of assessment,

How many, and why?:
but broader in reach and cross-disciplines

Q62

The EI low-volume threshold should continue to be based on the number of research outputs submitted for ERA.

Agree

Q63

If you disagree, how should eligibility for assessment in EI be determined?

Respondent skipped this question

Q64

The low-volume threshold is set at the appropriate level.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:
as long as it is choice

Page 15: EI Methodology /2

Q65

Overall, the engagement indicator suite for the assessment of research engagement is suitable.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
need to encourage multi discipline and institutional approach .. can we also measure industry on how well they engage with research insitutions?

Q66

The cash support from research end-users using HERDC data is appropriate for the assessment of research engagement.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
what id we have along term relationship with a charity and have impacted on 100s or 10000s of lives but no money is involved...? money should not be part of this

Q67

The research commercialisation income is appropriate for the assessment of research engagement.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
as above

Q68

Are there additional metrics that would be appropriate across many or all disciplines?

If you answered 'Yes', please outline the metrics. If you answered 'No', please explain your answer.:
see UK system for ideas

Q69

Are there alternative metrics that would be appropriate across many or all disciplines?

Please specify the metrics.:
lives changed, policies changed, etc.

Q70

Should any of the current engagement metrics be redesigned?

Yes,

If you answered 'Yes', which ones and how?:
see the Uk system

Q71

The co-supervision of HDR students should be made an engagement indicator in future rounds of EI.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
may be we need another term here to indicate collaboration wit industry in HDR terms ..see the KTP ideas

Q72

In your opinion, are any of the ERA applied measures appropriate indicators of research engagement in EI?

Patents

Comment:

No

could be done without any engagement outside of the university

Research commercialisation income

Comment:

No

as above

Registered designs

Comment:

No

as above

Plant breeder's rights

Comment:

No

as above

NHMRC endorsed guidelines

Comment:

No

as above

Page 16: EI Methodology /3

Q73

The narrative approach is suitable for describing and assessing research engagement with end-users.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:

if it is done well and captures 'how' lives have been changed as well as 'how many ' and so forth .. over the longer term - reach and impact. but could also include other academic institutions e.g. a new idea is picked up by ECRs and HDRs around the world .. etc.

Q74

If you disagree with the narrative approach, what alternative approach could be used to replace the narrative? If you are suggesting indicators, please be specific.

Respondent skipped this question

Q75

One engagement submission per broad discipline is sufficient for capturing the research engagement within that discipline.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

cross discipline please ... institutional and also how institutions work together

Q76

The engagement narrative needs to be longer.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:

if it means this captures more quality work ..

Q77

Additional evidence is needed within the narrative.

Agree ,

If you agree, what evidence should be provided?:
impact evidence

Page 17: EI Methodology /4

Q78

The narrative approach is suitable for describing and assessing Impact.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

too discipline focused, no impact is measured or recorded. need to encourage institutions and individuals to record and search for impacts .. including unexpected ones. Some work may be picked up and be impactful with out deliberate intention

Q79

If you disagree with the narrative approach, what alternative approach could be used to replace the narrative? Please explain your answer. If you are suggesting indicators, please be specific.

Respondent skipped this question**Q80**

One impact study per broad discipline is sufficient for capturing the research impact within that discipline.

Strong disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

too specific and narrow .. big problems need many disciplines

Q81

The impact narrative needs to be longer.

Neither agree nor disagree**Q82**

There is need for additional evidence to be provided within the impact narrative.

Neither agree nor disagree,

If you answered 'Yes', what evidence should be provided?:
see Uk system

Q83

In your opinion, are there quantitative indicators that could be used to the measure the impact of research outside of academia?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

if appropriate .. e.g. evidence of a citations in a policy document .. evidence of how many people impacted in an intervention etc,

Q84

If you answered 'yes' to the previous question, please name and describe the quantitative indicator/s, and the disciplines for which they are relevant.

Respondent skipped this question

Page 18: EI Methodology /5

Q85

The narrative approach is suitable for describing and assessing approach to impact.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:

can tell the story

Q86

If you disagree with the narrative approach, what alternative approach could be used to replace the narrative? Please explain your answer. If you are suggesting indicators, please be specific.

Respondent skipped this question**Q87**

One approach to impact narrative per broad discipline is sufficient for capturing the activities within that discipline.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
one approach never works

Q88

The approach to impact narrative needs to be longer.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:
but specific

Q89

There is a need for additional evidence to be provided.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
as long as people know what categories count .. see the
Uk system and case studies.

Q90

Would there be benefit in combining engagement and approach to impact?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:
surely impact is behind engagement .. emerging and long
term impact.

Page 19: EI Methodology /6

Q91

The engagement rating scale is suitable for assessing research engagement.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
rating narratives?

Q92

The descriptors for the engagement rating scale are suitable.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
unclear phrases .. what is highly effective?

Q93

The impact rating scale is suitable for assessing impact.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
need long term ? what is significant? positive language on
narratives etc. ..not sure students would like these in their
rubrics?

Q94

The descriptors for the impact rating scale are suitable.

Disagree,

Please explain answer.:
as above

Q95

The approach to impact rating scale is suitable for assessing approach to impact.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

as above ..and also what does beyond academia mean ..
what about better teaching process for students?

Q96

The descriptions for the approach to impact rating scale are suitable.

Disagree,

Please explain your answer.:

as above

Page 20: EI Methodology /7

Q97

Should EI continue to include an interdisciplinary impact study in addition to the two-digit Field of Research impact studies?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

should be the focus .. get rid of two-digit

Q98

Should the EI low volume threshold be applied to the unit of assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research in EI 2024 with the option to opt in if threshold is not met?

No,

Please explain your answer.:

encourage all to take seriously even if evolving

Q99

Should the unit of assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander research include engagement in the next round of EI?

Yes

Page 21: Overarching Issues Common to ERA and EI

Q100

How often should ERA occur?

Every five years**Q101**

What impact would a longer assessment cycle (i.e. greater than three years) have on the value of ERA results, particularly in the intervening years?

capacity to enhance engagement if the process is known and also the capacity to revision discipline and institutional approaches to research.

Page 22: Overarching Issues Common to ERA and EI

Q102

How often should the EI assessment occur?

Every five years

Q103

What impact would a longer assessment cycle (i.e. greater than three years) have on the value of EI results, particularly in the intervening years?

capacity to build meaningful impact case studies and minimization of short term quick fixes

Page 23: Overarching Issues Common to both ERA and EI

Q104

ERA and EI should be combined into the one assessment.

Strongly agree,

Please explain your answer.:

this will encourage institutions and disciplines to see impact as important.

Q105

What would be the advantages and/or disadvantages of ERA and EI being combined into the one assessment.

Advantages

impact will be important

Disadvantages

institutions will need support and training

Q106

Are there other ways to streamline the processes to reduce the cost to universities of participating in ERA and EI?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

encourage continued and long term engagement .. keep the system broadly aligned so universities can create systems to collect data appropriately

Page 24: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI

Q107

In your view, what data sources could ERA utilise?

ask institutions specific questions

Q108

In your view, what are the most time consuming elements of the ERA submission?

the bits that need thinking .. hence institutions focus on the easy bits and this flows down

Q109

Are there efficiencies that could be introduced?

Yes,

Please describe.:

learn from the UK

Page 25: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI

Q110

In your view, what are the most time consuming elements of the EI submission?

collecting the elements of the story

Q111

Are there efficiencies that could be introduced?

Yes,

Please describe.:
encourage long-term approaches

Page 26: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI

Q112

ORCID iDs should be mandatory for ERA.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
depends on what benefit this will add

Q113

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of mandatory ORCID iDs?

Advantages

individuals are recognised

Disadvantages

not sure how it adds

Q114

The automatic harvesting of output data using ORCID iDs would streamline a university's submission process.

Agree,

Please explain your answer.:
if it matches the purpose of the activity

Q115

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of automatic harvesting of output data using ORCID iDs?

Advantages

takes the job from universities

Disadvantages

may not be useful

Q116

DOIs should be mandatory for ERA.

Neither agree nor disagree,

Please explain your answer.:
as above

Q117

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages of mandatory DOIs?

Advantages

as above

Disadvantages

as above question

Page 27: Overarching Issues Common to Both ERA and EI

Q118

Are there other ways to collect data to reduce the cost and burden to universities of participating in ERA and EI whilst maintaining the robustness of the ERA and EI process?

Yes,

Please explain your answer.:

the current approach encourages competition against each other .. an approach that encourage collaboration is needed

Q119

What are the advantages and/or disadvantages?

Respondent skipped this question

Page 28: Additional Comments

Q120

Please provide any additional comments:

this needs an overhaul to encourage the importance of impact beyond traditional academic measure.
