## ARC Commitment to Responsible Research Assessment statement

As a government organisation which conducts research assessment, the ARC is aware of the importance of ensuring that assessment activities undertaken are fair, meaningful and support a diverse and inclusive research culture. Traditional metrics alone cannot capture the full value of research, and there is increasing momentum, both globally and in Australia, to adopt approaches that reflect a broader and more inclusive understanding of research quality and impact. Responsible research assessment promotes transparency and openness, inclusivity and contextual sensitivity.

Evaluation undertaken by the

ARC will be conducted through a principles-based approach that reflects contemporary best practice in research evaluation. The principles are informed by the Australian Centre for Evaluation's Commonwealth Evaluation Principles and the Productivity Commission's Indigenous Evaluation Strategy and ethical standards as well as responsible research assessment bodies, including DORA (the San Francisco Declaration on Research Assessment). The principles will apply to evaluation undertaken as part of the Research Insights Capability (RIC), assessments of applications to the National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) and NCGP scheme evaluations.

The ARC will adhere to the following principles and practices:

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| Inclusive | Seek to recognise the full breadth of Australian research including research by and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, research conducted in all disciplines, including interdisciplinary work, as well as diverse kinds of research outputs and academic activities.<br><br>Acknowledge the varied ways effort is taken to translate research into impact, including by, and in partnership with, industry, government, community and end-users.<br><br>Ensure evaluation processes are inclusive and non-discriminatory and support equity, diversity and inclusion in research. |
| Open and transparent | Utilise, incentivise and contribute to openly accessible research, research data, and data on research. |

DOI: 10.83116/5hmm-xe74

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| | Enable scrutiny and reuse of data by making criteria, methods, data sources and process as openly accessible as possible. Our practices will apply the open science principles of 'open as possible' and 'closed as necessary'[1] to implement appropriate safeguards relating to Indigenous data sovereignty, national security, individual privacy, and sensitive information in line with FAIR,[2] CARE,[3] and Indigenous Data Sovereignty[4] principles. |
| Contextual, ethical and culturally appropriate | Use metrics that appropriately account for disciplinary and cultural contexts, recognising that excellence and impact take different forms, and include both quantitative and qualitative data.<br><br>Ensure representation of research conducted by and with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people protects, values and utilises Indigenous knowledge systems and aligns with Indigenous Data Sovereignty and Governance and Indigenous Cultural and Intellectual Property principles and mechanisms. |
| Dynamic and adaptable | Be dynamic, responsive to unintended effects and open to stakeholder feedback and revision based on emerging technologies, research practices and policy priorities. |
| Impartial, robust and credible | Undertake reporting and evaluation activities impartially with independence and integrity.<br><br>Ensure appropriate guidance is provided on the use and limitations of the information generated. |
| Useful | Balance rigour with workload so that the benefits of evaluation outweigh the costs for participants and makes good use of public money. |

[1] As adopted by the Horizon Europe Open Science Principles.
[2] Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. *et al.* The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. *Sci Data* **3**, 160018 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18.
[3] The CARE principles are designed to ensure that FAIR is applied in ways that respect the rights and interests of Indigenous peoples.
[4] As defined by Maiam nayri Wingara.

DOI: 10.83116/5hmm-xe74