



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Evaluating Research Excellence

Professor Margaret Sheil
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Research Council



ERA initiative

*Defining our strengths,
identifying opportunities...*



Objectives of ERA



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

1. Evaluation system that government funded is producing excellent outcomes
2. Identify research excellence and opportunities for development
3. Compare to national and international benchmarks





Ideally, ERA will ...

- Have the confidence of the research community.
- Identify research excellence wherever it is found.
- Minimise the burden on those making submissions and those doing the evaluations.





Encourage behaviour(s)

- Improved quality of outputs.
- Higher levels of activity.
- Collaborative activity.
- Interdisciplinary and multi disciplinary research.
- Engagement with industry/end users.
- Concentration, i.e. scale and focus.
- Better strategic planning and investment.





ERA - Key Elements

- Discipline clusters (eight) by institution.
- Successive evaluations - up to four per year.
- Research Assessment Committees.
- Produce detailed reports by cluster.





ERA and Metrics

- The ERA will use the most appropriate metrics and other proxies for each discipline.
- Metrics for ERA will be developed through a Metrics Working group.
- The ARC will run a second phase of consultation for the ranked outlets process during May.
- The ARC will run a tender process relating to the supply of citation data for ERA across the various clusters.

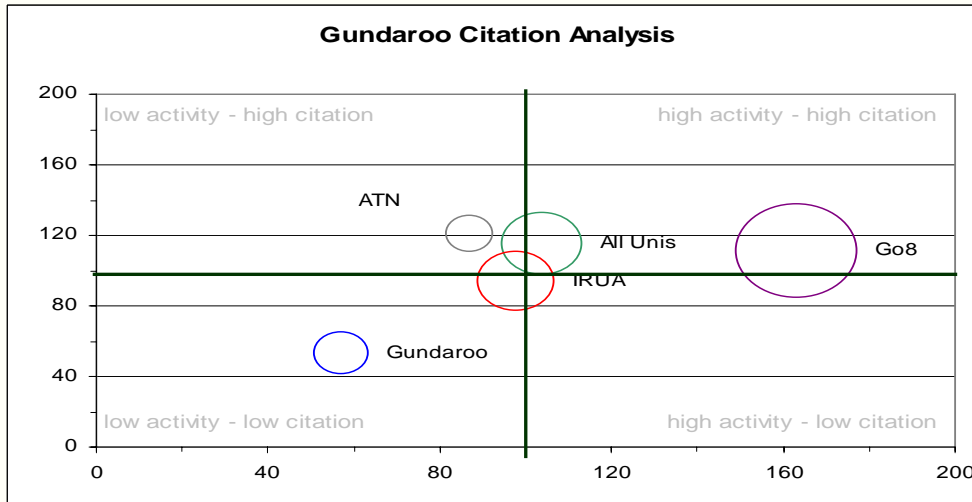
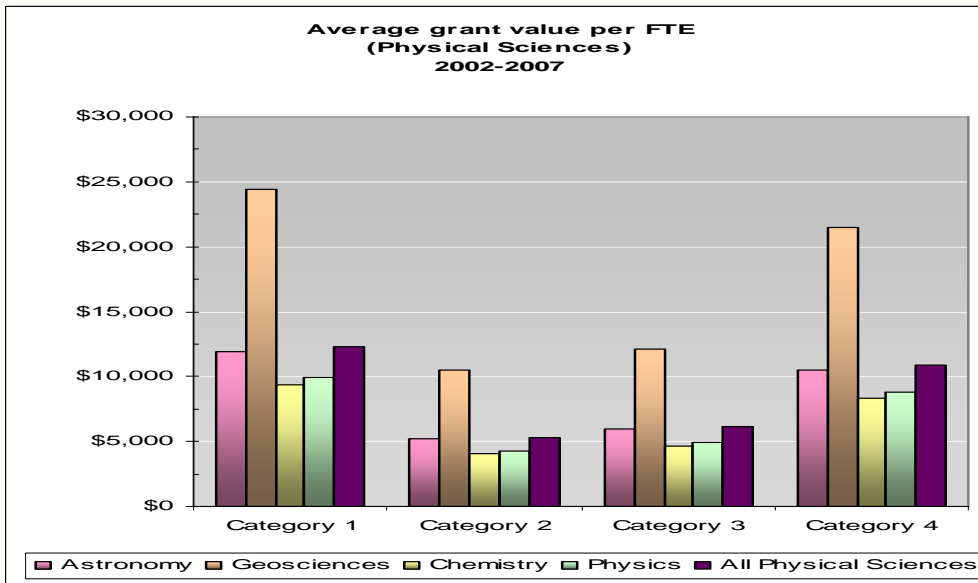




By institution and discipline(s)

- Level of activity
 - Income, HDR Students, Outputs.
- Quality of the activity
 - Publications and other outputs of research.
- Performances against benchmarks
 - number of citations
 - proportion of internationally competitive publications, performances, etc
 - national benchmarks (eg. Outputs/income etc).





RESEARCH in the national interest - enabling the future

Australian Government
Australian Research Council

Physical Sciences Research in Australian Universities 2002-2007

Artificial Data ONLY

Please Note - Artificial Data





Questions occupying our minds.....

- Capturing interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary research
- Robust indicators for applied research
- What defines a discipline
- Best modes of reporting
- How robust are the tiered outlets
- Other indicators of excellence
- Entry point





Next Steps

- Further develop submission system.
- Consultation paper to Advisory Council on 22 April for release shortly after.
- Second phase of consultation for ranked outlets in May.
- Feedback on consultation paper by mid-year.
- Discussions with individual disciplines on-going.
- First cluster evaluation (physical sciences) in early 2009.
- Commence other clusters ASAP thereafter.

