



Australian Government
Australian Research Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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Indicators of excellence for the new ERA

The Australian Research Council (ARC) CEO, Professor Margaret Sheil, today released two key documents that will guide the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative.

"ERA will use a range of indicators and peer review to support the evaluation of research excellence," Professor Sheil said.

"Today I release the *ERA Indicator Principles* and *ERA Indicator Descriptors*—two key documents that will assist institutions as they prepare for a trial of ERA in 2009.

"The *ERA Indicator Principles* provide the overall context and application of the indicator approach and the *ERA Indicator Descriptors* provide the detail of each indicator type."

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator Kim Carr today welcomed the release of the two documents.

"I know that many academics and others across Australia have made significant contributions to this work, and I thank them for their efforts."

"This work will substantially assist ERA in demonstrating the quality and diversity of research undertaken at Australian universities," Senator Carr said.

Clusters One and Two will be evaluated in the first half of 2009 and this will help the ARC to further develop and test the indicators to ensure they are valid and robust.

Journal ranking lists for Cluster One and Two are complete and are now subject to a final review by discipline-specific experts. These lists will be released in early-2009 to ensure that institutions can prepare for the Cluster One and Two evaluations.

Professor Sheil said: "I am pleased with the progress my staff at the ARC have been making with the development of ERA and I thank the research and higher education sector for the contributions they have made so far in helping us to develop a research quality and evaluation system for Australian research."

The ERA Indicator Principles and ERA Indicator Descriptors are available on the [ARC website](#).

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