



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Australian Research Council

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30 November 2009

### **Trial outcomes promising for the new ERA**

Australian Research Council (ARC) Chief Executive Officer, Professor Margaret Sheil, today released the outcomes of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative trial of Cluster One.

Cluster One encompasses the Physical, Chemical and Earth Sciences disciplines.

“The outcomes I am releasing today show that ERA is able to produce high-level data that allows us to measure Australia’s performance against international benchmarks,” Professor Sheil said.

“It also shows that the ARC and universities are committed to and prepared for the ERA, which commences in 2010.

“Individual reports have also been provided to the 39 institutions who participated in the ERA Cluster One Trial. These reports provide quantitative analysis of institutions’ research for their Units of Evaluation, as well as comments from the Research Evaluation Committee that reviewed these. The final reports also include Australian and world benchmarks allowing institutions to compare their performance. As promised, these reports will not be publicly released.

It is expected that institutions will use the outcomes to refine their submissions for the full ERA process, in which the results of evaluations of research disciplines in each Australian institution will be publicly released.

“I would like to thank the participating institutions, the ERA Cluster One trial Research Evaluation Committee and ARC staff for their hard work they put in to reach this milestone.”

To view the Cluster One trial results, visit [www.arc.gov.au/era/trial.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/era/trial.htm). Outcomes of the trial of Cluster Two—the Humanities and Creative Arts disciplines—will be released in December 2009.

The Cluster One and Cluster Two trials have informed the full ERA process commencing in June 2010

To find out more about ERA, including the ERA trial, visit [www.arc.gov.au/era/default.htm](http://www.arc.gov.au/era/default.htm)

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