



Australian Government

Department of Innovation
Industry, Science and Research

Innovative Research Universities Australia
Senior Staff Forum, 16 July 2009

A Framework for University Research

Patricia Kelly
Deputy Secretary
Department of Innovation, Industry, Science
and Research

INNOVATION
INNOVATION

Key Issues

- The Australian Government's Innovation Agenda
- The research funding framework
- Investment in Research Infrastructure
- Mission-based compacts
- Sustainable Research Excellence
- Research Workforce Strategy
- Excellence in Research for Australia
- Collaboration between universities and industry
- Close consultation with the sector

Background

- Budget - May 2009
- \$5.7 billion package over four years to deliver reform across the higher education and innovation sectors
- Biggest spend on science and innovation in 30 years

National Innovation Priorities

1. Public research funding to support high-quality research, address national challenges and open up new opportunities
2. Australia to have a strong skills base - especially researchers in both public and private sectors
3. Innovation system to foster industries of the future - commercialisation of R&D
4. More effective dissemination of new technologies, processes and ideas - increase innovation especially in SMEs
5. A culture of collaboration - within the research sector and between researchers and industry
6. More international collaboration on R&D – in both the research sector and among businesses
7. Improve policy development and service delivery - public and community sectors as part of the innovation system

Enhanced Research Funding System

<p>Collaboration</p> <p><i>Collaborative Research Networks program</i></p> <p><i>Co-operative Research Centres</i></p> <p><i>Infrastructure collaboration</i></p>	<p>Participation</p> <p><i>Increased Aust. Postgraduate Awards</i></p> <p><i>Super science fellowships and other Aust. Research Council fellowships</i></p> <p><i>Research Training Scheme</i></p>
<p>Engagement</p> <p><i>Joint Research Engagement</i></p> <p><i>Co-operative Research Centres</i></p> <p><i>ARC Linkage program</i></p>	<p>Excellence</p> <p><i>Sustainable Research Excellence</i></p> <p><i>Excellence in Research for Australia</i></p> <p><i>Improved indexation of Block Grants</i></p>

Compacts with universities will provide a framework for the Government's reform agenda

Dual system of core funding:
Existing formula-based Research Block Grants and Competitive Research Grants (ARC, NHMRC etc)

<i>Infrastructure funding programs</i>	<i>National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy</i>	<i>Education Investment Fund - SuperScience Package</i>
--	--	---

Reformed university research system that:

- **Drives Excellence**
- **Builds Sustainability**
- **Provides transparency**
- **Improves performance**
- **Promotes collaboration & responsiveness**
- **Engages broadly**

More support for world-class university research

- **\$512** million for the Sustainable Research Excellence in Universities Initiative
- A new Joint Research Engagement program replacing the Institutional Grants Scheme
- **\$52** million to establish the Collaborative Research Networks Program
- **\$51.7** million to increase the Australian Postgraduate Stipend
- **\$35.8** million for Excellence in Research for Australia
- **\$51.6** million funding to revise the indexation of HESA funding for research

A new \$1 billion Super Science Initiative

- **\$160.5** million - Space and Astronomy
- **\$387.7** million - Marine and Climate
- **\$504** million - Future Industries
- **\$27.2** million for 100 new Super Science Fellowships

Research Infrastructure

Super Science Infrastructure investments are complemented by:

- **\$321** million for **eight** research infrastructure projects to be funded from round two of the Education Investment Fund
- A further **\$750** million for EIF round 3
- **\$400** million under the Clean Energy Initiative

Mission – Based Compacts

- A discussion paper on compacts will be released shortly. Consultations will be undertaken with the sector from early August
- Interim compacts will be negotiated with universities later this year for 2010 with ‘full’ Compacts to be negotiated from 2011
- DIISR and DEEWR will also work together over the coming months in establishing the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency, TEQSA.

Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE)

- A discussion paper on the Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) program will be released shortly
- Consultation on SRE will be undertaken alongside the consultation on compacts from early August

Joint Research Engagement (JRE)

- JRE transforms the Institutional Grants Scheme (IGS) to remove competitive research grant income from the calculations used to allocate this research block grant.
- JRE will:
 - encourage greater collaboration between universities and the business and non-government research sectors;
 - reward the diversification of research income sources.
- Will be covered in consultations on SRE and compacts.

Collaborative Research Networks (CRN)

- \$52.0 million from 2011
- Will help smaller and regional universities adapt to a research system driven more strongly by performance outcomes.
- Complements other reforms of the research block grants system, which include a greater emphasis on collaboration.
- CRN will highlight and support areas of excellence in smaller and regional universities,

Research Workforce Strategy

- The Commonwealth will develop a research workforce strategy to underpin its research reform agenda.
- The strategy will examine issues impacting on Australia's capacity to build and maintain a research workforce that meets its future needs, including the needs of the academic workforce.
- Work has commenced within the Department on supply and demand for research skills.
- The Department intends to consult with the sector on key aspects of the strategy in the coming months.

Excellence in Research Australia

- ERA is an important Government initiative that will assess the quality of Australian research
- ERA will undertake evaluations of the research at a discipline level according to research quality and activity
- Evaluations will assess research excellence using a combination of indicators and peer review

Collaboration between universities and industry

- **\$271 million** - Enterprise Connect network of manufacturing and innovation centres launched last year
- Clean Energy Innovation Centre based at the University of Newcastle
- Innovation Regions Centre headquartered at Deakin University
- Creative Industries Centre at UTS

Researchers In Business Program

- **\$10** million program launched early this year
- WA based company Regen Power first company to use the program
- Received \$50,000 to support salary costs of a mechanical engineering masters student from Curtin University
- Project - wind turbine energy to power telecommunications towers in remote areas

Cooperative Research Centres

- **\$682** million to be invested in the next four years
- 2009 is an important transition year for the CRC program
- Selection round 12 applications close on 14 August 2009
- IRU Australia members participate in 21 CRC's across 6 sectors

Questions!

 INNOVATION INNOVATION