

MEDIA RELEASE 02/2011

Monday 31 January 2011

ERA reveals high quality research at IRU universities

The release of the ERA data on university research shows that the great majority of research across the IRU universities is at world standard, with each IRU university having multiple areas of research that are above world standard. This research is vital to the National and respective State economies as well as local communities.

“It is very pleasing to have confirmed the standard of research across IRU universities” said Professor Ian O’Connor, Chair of the IRU.

“IRU members play a vital role in the Australian research landscape and are living proof that world class research universities are emerging provided the investments in research are maintained.

“The data shows that there are various fields in which an IRU member leads Australian research, being the only university to rate at the 5 level in that field. As a group we have a breadth that displays world class in most broad areas of research. We have particular depth above world class in biological sciences, medical and health sciences, environment sciences, and agricultural and veterinary sciences.

“Our universities are well positioned to do better in the next assessment. The 2010 results reflect research between 2003 and 2008. Since then all our universities have strengthened their research outcomes.

The challenge is now for the Australian Government to use the ERA analysis as a constructive basis to stimulate even better research outcomes by Australia’s researchers across the university sector. It is important that future policy settings encourage the development of research and do not constrain funding to current areas of strength.

It is a concern that nationally research in many social science and humanities struggles to be at world standard. This is an important issue for IRU members and nationally.

Contact

Professor Ian O’Connor
Chair, IRU

Via:

Maureen Frame,
Communications Manager
Griffith University

t: 07 3735 6782

m: 0408 728 619

Conor King

Executive Director IRU

m 0434 601 691

w iru.edu.au

