

MEDIA RELEASE [9/2012]

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Hard work and open, competitive funding underpins world leading research

“The Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) outcomes once again demonstrate that world-leading research is being done throughout the Innovative Research Universities,” said Professor Barney Glover, incoming IRU Chair and Vice-Chancellor Charles Darwin University.

“ERA tells us that high-quality research is undertaken throughout Australia. It confirms the strong ratings that IRU and other Australian universities achieve in international university rankings where all IRU members and half of Australia’s universities feature in the world top 5%. The results give confidence to IRU partners in Government and industry that their investments are being well used.

Across the IRU the number of fields assessed at world standard and above (a rating of 3 or higher) has increased by 19%, with the proportion of all fields assessed at this level rising from 62% to 74%. We are particular pleased that the number of fields where IRU members are well above world standard (the highest rating of 5) has more than doubled from 20 to 42. See Tables below.

Of those fields assessed in both 2010 and 2012, 30% have had their rating improve, a testimony to the growing capability of IRU researchers.

“These results show the value of research funding being open and competitive. This allows IRU members to strengthen their research outcomes, putting pressure on those with longer track records, while challenging IRU members to sustain their performance against the competition from all other universities also seeking to improve research outcomes” Professor Glover said.

“ERA results are a testament to the dedication of a highly skilled research workforce. I congratulate my colleagues across the IRU for these exceptional results.” Professor Glover concluded.

Contact

Professor Barney Glover
Chair IRU
08 8946 6040
0418 954 052
barney.glover@cdu.edu.au

Mr Conor King
Executive Director IRU
0434 601 691
03 9479 5181
e: conor.king@iru.edu.au

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) ratings – 2012

Provider	Fields of Research (FoRs) Ratings			FoRs assessed	FoRs rated 3 or above	% FoRs rated 3 or above
	5 - Well above world standard	4 - Above world standard	3 - At world standard			
Charles Darwin University	1	3	6	14	10	71%
Flinders University	3	5	21	39	29	74%
Griffith University	1	11	26	60	38	63%
James Cook University	3	11	19	50	33	66%
La Trobe University	9	7	22	53	38	72%
Murdoch University	7	5	16	33	28	85%
University of Newcastle	18	9	17	49	44	90%
IRU TOTAL	42	51	127	298	220	74%

Source: Australian Research Council.

Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) ratings – 2010-2012 – All IRU

Year	Fields of Research (FoRs) Ratings			FoRs assessed	FoRs rated 3 or above	% FoRs rated 3 or above
	5 - Well above world standard	4 - Above world standard	3 - At world standard			
2010	20	52	113	299	185	62%
2012	42	51	127	298	220	74%
Change	110%	-2%	12%	0%	19%	12%pt

Source: Australian Research Council.