Communicating the Benefits of Publicly Funded Research

Outline

• What is the ARC?
• Research Outcomes
• Articulating the Benefits
• Communicating the Message

Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science & Research

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science & Research

Australian Research Council Act 2001

CSIRO

AIMS

ANSTO

AAO

Chief Scientist

Government Investment in R&D

FY 06-07 $5,973.9 M

Scope

• Humanities and Creative Arts
• Engineering and Environmental Science
• Social, Behavioural and Economic Science
• Biological Sciences and Biotechnology
• Physics, Chemistry and Geoscience
• Mathematics, Information and Communication Science
Strategic Objectives

- To support excellence in research
- To build Australia’s research capacity
- To provide informed high quality policy advice to government
- To enhance research outcomes through effective evaluation
- To raise the profile of Australia’s research effort and be an effective advocate for its benefits

Communications

- Quality of outputs (bibliometrics & tiered outlets)
- Excellent applied research (indicators)
- Staged approach (interdisciplinarity)

Communicating the benefit?

- Links
  - With whom or what are research outcomes associated or attributed to?
- Message
  - Do we have a clearly articulated message?
- Audience
  - Who are we sending the message to?
Missing links?

Investment in R&D by sector

- Universities ~50%
- Government ~29%
- Business ~21%

Articulating the benefits

- Link to UG experience
- Retaining a vibrant academic workforce
- International reputation

Link to UG experience

Future Fellows

- Future Fellowships scheme will reward Australia’s best and brightest mid-career researchers and outstanding international researchers
- 200 four year Fellowships pa for the next 5 years

ARC Discovery 2008

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International Reputation & Exchange

THES WORLD UNIVERSITY RANKINGS

Communicating the message

- Media
- Government
- Elected and officials
- General public
- Colleagues

Some Benefits of Publicly Funded Research

- Real research outcomes
- Economic Benefit (Cochlear, Jameson Cell etc)
- Vibrant higher education sector
- Productive academic workforce
- Strong export industry
- Attraction and retention of skilled workforce