

Media Release

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Research excellence underpins Australia's innovation system

The Australian Institute for Commercialisation (AIC) commends Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Senator Kim Carr on this week's announcement of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) initiative.

The AIC strongly supports the need for excellence in research to underpin Australia's innovation system, build national capacity, and develop skills.

The AIC believes it is important however, to secure a strong mix of both fundamental research, as well as research aligned to the more immediate needs of industry and the community.

AIC Chief Executive Officer Dr Rowan Gilmore said experience had shown that the Australian public both expects and strongly supports the commercialisation of applicable research across the country.

"There are strong expectations from Australian taxpayers to maintain our high standard of research, particularly in the health and medical sectors," Dr Gilmore said.

"A measure of impact, such as the proof of concept metric recently proposed by the Proof of Concept Advisory Committee, is still needed to ensure such research is brought to market effectively," he said.

"We have seen occasions where the peer review process to award research funding has penalised researchers because they have focussed on commercialisation of research, to the detriment of their publication record.

"An impact measure would ensure such researchers are not penalised, but in fact rewarded for their efforts at translating research into application."

The ERA initiative will be developed by the Australian Research Council (ARC) and the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research to assess research quality using a combination of metrics and expert review by committees.

The AIC is a leading service organisation helping innovators achieve commercial success. Around Australia, the AIC helps business, research organisations and governments convert their ideas into successful outcomes.

We address market gaps and accelerate the commercialisation of know how and technology that our clients have created.

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For media enquiries:

Aimee Cowan

AIC Marketing and Communications Manager

07 3853 5274 or via email at aimee.cowan@ausicom.com