

**To: Australian Research Council (ARC)**

**From: Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL)**

**Re: CAUL response to the ARC consultation draft – new research insights capability**

**Date: 26 September 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity for the Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) to respond to the ARC pre-consultation on a potential new research insights capability.

CAUL member libraries provide a range of key research services, scholarly collections and infrastructure to support researchers, HDR candidates and research partners across the higher education and research sector in Australia. Member libraries support discovery, publication, dissemination, preservation and evaluation of research outputs. Libraries support the FAIR principles, open access and equitable access to information. Libraries have been integral to the completion of previous ERA exercises and welcome opportunities to reduce the admin burden associated with these exercises.

CAUL provides the following feedback and welcomes the intent of the new approach to research evaluation:

- We welcome the proposal for more direct engagement with libraries as data providers but also experts in bibliographic metadata and systems
- The open sharing of knowledge, issues and successes for action will increase collaboration and impact
- A more streamlined, data-driven methodology will increase cost effectiveness and responsiveness
- Support for persistent identifiers, FAIR practices and open access publishing reflects and utilises adopted practice
- The commitment to engage with Responsible Research Assessment initiatives and principles strengthen the approach

Acknowledging only limited details have been provided in the pre-consultation phase, CAUL provides the following additional points for consideration:

- The FAIR principles and practices should be applied to publications in addition to data, such that research publications are findable and accessible
- The CARE principles should be applied in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders
- ARC commitment to engage with Responsible Research Assessment initiatives and principles is applauded

- Institutional repositories can be considered as data sources including for non-traditional research outputs (NTROs). CAUL invites more consultation on this
- CAUL supports the selection and use of supplier(s) of quality open metadata. ARC should develop requirements to inform data provision before requesting additional data. We are available, together with other sector bodies and institutions, to provide further expert guidance on repository capabilities around the sector to inform discussions around data source systems, metadata schemas, and staffing. Any change will require investment. Most institutions have invested in their CRIS for the purpose of research assessment and that should also be considered as a data source which is designed for reporting purpose as well as further discussions about the role of repositories
- Note the proposal will be multi-faceted and include implementation of multiple related policies at the same time – FAIR data, open access, PID action plan, and government data. ARC should consult on whether to drip feed these to institutions, or to make a more intentional change at the same time to avoid any mismatch between policy settings
- The 'ERA' dark archive for works in copyright was unwieldy to manage. A focus on open access wherever possible should mitigate the need for such systems in future.
- The choice of data supplier can have an impact on institutional resourcing as institutions will try to emulate the ARC processes
- An ARC policy on rights retention will ensure the availability of research outputs for future use and reuse
- ARC must consult on what resources will be necessary for institutions to implement a changed approach including systems, integrations, and staff capabilities

CAUL welcomes the ARC making additional information available on data sources and methods. Members of the CAUL Board can be available to the ARC for further consultation. The repository infrastructure event to be held at QUT on 17 October could be part of the consultation process.

### [About CAUL](#)

The Council of Australasian University Librarians (CAUL) is the peak collegiate body for the leaders of university libraries in Australasia and Oceania. It facilitates connection and collaboration and optimises its collective knowledge, expertise, and resources to achieve strategic outcomes at scale in priority areas for the university library sector. CAUL is the trusted voice of the university library sector in the region.

### [Contact](#)

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