

MEDIA RELEASE: ERA 2015

GOVERNMENT MUST IMPROVE FUNDING FOR EDUCATION RESEARCH

The Australian Association for Research in Education (AARE) welcomes the results of the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) 2015 evaluation released today and acknowledges the overall improvement in the rating of Australian educational research. The Association also calls on the Federal Government to increase its investment in research in Education to further enhance quality and support the development of research capacity where it has been viewed as wanting.

AARE President, Professor Martin Mills, said, “There is a very high correlation between the money invested in research across the disciplines and the quality of outcomes as reflected in the ERA. The results in some areas reflect the extremely low national investment in educational research.

“ERA 2015 highlights significant pockets of excellence in Education where research has been assessed as being well above world standard, the result across the entire discipline demonstrates that the vast majority of research is at, above or well above world standard. This is an improvement on previous ERA exercises.

In 2014, research funded in Education (FoR 13) through the ARC Discovery Program was awarded just over 1% of the total available funding. Since the establishment of the Discovery Program in 2002, funding for educational research has declined by 20%.

Prof. Mills said, “Despite such limited funding, the ERA result demonstrates that some excellent educational research is being produced, but a significant increase in investment is needed to support improvement across the board.

“If the Government does not increase funding, we also run the risk of losing our best and brightest researchers, many of whom shared their outstanding work this week at the AARE Annual Conference in Fremantle.

“The quality of education in Australia is vitally important for our future and determines the contribution Australia makes to the world. It has never made sense that education has always been one of the lowest funded areas of academic research in this country.

“It is time that the Government demonstrated its often-stated commitment to education with a substantial increase in funding and support for research in education,” said Prof. Mills.

Media Contact:

Professor Martin Mills, AARE President
0408 726 110