Research Engagement and Impact for the Creative and Performing Arts

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Source: Research Councils UK, Pathways to impact, http://www.rcuk.ac.uk/innovation/impacts/
Statement of purpose

Leland and Jane Stanford founded the University to "promote the public welfare by exercising an influence on behalf of humanity and civilization."
### Recent history of Impact in Australia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>May 2004</td>
<td>John Howard announces start of a process to develop &quot;Quality and Accessibility Frameworks for Publicly Funded Research&quot;.</td>
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<td>Late 2004</td>
<td>Sir Gareth Roberts appointed to chair the EAG with representation from the PBRF, AVCC, CSIRO, ANSTO, NHMRC and ARC, Go8, ATN, IRUA.</td>
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<td>Late 2005</td>
<td>Research Quality Framework preferred model emerges.</td>
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<td>Nov 2006</td>
<td>Minister Bishop announces $42 million in RQF implementation funding</td>
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<td>Nov 2006</td>
<td>Productivity Commission report <em>Public Support for Science and Innovation</em> raising concerns about the cost/benefits of the RQF in the absence of a substantial increased research funding pool.</td>
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<td>Late 2007</td>
<td>Minister Carr places the RQF on hold and begins consultation process.</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>ERA emerges focusing almost exclusively on research quality.</td>
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<td>2010</td>
<td>UK adopts Impact (case study approach) for the REF 2014 as recommended by the late Sir Gareth Roberts.</td>
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Stakeholders in the Impact debate

- Government departments
- Science communicators, Media
- Universities and academic staff
- Funding Councils (ARC & NHMRC)
- Lobby Groups – Go8, IRU, ATN, RUN and UA
- Industry & society
- Consultancy firms

Muddled Impact debate
$1.1 billion package over four years under four key themes:

- Tax breaks to incentivize business to take risks and innovate;
- Co-investment to commercialise promising ideas through Biomedical Translation Fund and CSIRO Innovation Fund.
- New Research Block Grant arrangements
- Long-term support for National Research Infrastructure
- Measuring Impact and engagement of University Research
- ARC Linkage Project continuous rounds
- Revised visa system to attract more entrepreneurial and research talent from overseas
- Support for Australian students to ‘embrace’ the digital age.
- Establishment of Innovation and Science Australia
- Government to make more data openly available
- Ease process for start-ups and small business to sell technology services to government
New Research Block Grant arrangements – from 1 January 2017
Six existing research block grants collapsed into two: Research Support Programme ($885m in 2017) and Research Training Programme ($948m in 2017). Funding drivers will be: research income from competitive grants and industry and other end-users (equal weighting); and HDR student completions. HDR student load and publications counts will not be used for funding allocations.

National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy – funding of $1.5 billion over 10 years from 2017

Measuring Impact and Engagement of University Research
The ARC will develop measures of impact and engagement in 2016 to create a companion exercise to ERA. A pilot assessment will take place in 2017 with the first full national assessment and reporting to occur in 2018.

ARC Linkage Project continuous rounds – from 1 July 2016
Outcome of applications will be announced within six months of lodgement.

Global Innovation Strategy and Landing Pads
Seed funding to assist collaboration with international research-industry clusters such as Fraunhofer Institutes in Germany.

Innovation Connections
Matched grants to support postgraduate researcher placements in business and grants to support business researchers to be placed into publicly funded research organisations.

Other measures include funding for Quantum Computing, Cooperative Research Centres, and Cyber Security Growth Centres.
Challenges for Griffith emerging from the National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA)

1. Embedding research engagement and impact deeply within the University psyche while continuing to improve research excellence.

2. Linking Griffith’s interdisciplinary capacity in the sciences, arts and humanities to create highly innovative research projects.

3. The NISA is consistent with Griffith’s vision to be a university of influence – aspects of the innovation agenda extend into learning and teaching and community engagement.

4. Research excellence challenges are ever-present:
   - Reinforcing excellence in areas of high performance;
   - Providing access to critical infrastructure;
   - Maintaining a high quality research environment;
   - Providing transition strategies and career pathways for promising young researchers.
What internal policy objectives are we seeking?

If Griffith’s objective is to achieve greater research engagement and impact then we need to assist our researchers to:

• better appreciate their role in providing societal benefit;
• improve their ability to collaborate successfully to advance the uptake of knowledge;
• develop ways to measure this contribution over time;
• develop our narrative about research and societal impact; and
• develop academic staff to better plan research and explain their own pathways to engagement and impact.

Our institutional position is that simply measuring engagement and impact will not achieve this – although the UK case study model seems overkill.
What the Government and funding Councils might be expecting from universities

Institutional and researcher awareness of the **Pathways to Engagement and Impact**. (University of Cambridge model provided)

Recognition of the **multiple pathways** to engagement and impact – these will vary from one discipline/research project to another.

Ability to **identify breakthrough research** and tell our impact stories.

An initial step in 2016 is to engage with the ARC to **develop an impact and engagement assessment framework**.

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**PATHWAYS TO IMPACT PLAN**

**Who?**
- Identify research users (beneficiaries) from outside academia

**Impact**
- What is it?
  - Taking the scope of research beyond academia
  - "What does my research mean to society and the economy?"
  - "Who will benefit from my research and how?"

**How?**
- Prospectively (grant applications)
- Retrospectively (looking at past impact as part of assessment)

**Why?**
- Benefit society and economy
- Benefit yourself (create career advantage by considering the impact of research early)

**1. Networking**
- Look for potential users to engage with your research

**2. User Engagement & Information**
- (Communications)
  - Make info about your research accessible to the communities who may benefit

**3. Collaborative Research & Knowledge Transfer (Engage with your end user)**
- Consultation/Advisory groups
- Formal partnerships

**4. Involve**
- (Two ways):
  - Involve beneficiaries with initial design
  - Commercialisation of research results

**Multiple dimensions of impact**
- (ex: research leading to a new medical intervention could lead to increased profits and employment for a business, commercialising the research, cost savings for the NHS, and improved quality of life for patients)

Dr Kyrie Heckman and Wen Zhang, OPDA Courses Team
Adapted from "An Introduction to Impact for Researchers", Claire Higgit, 2014, University of Cambridge
AHRC Case Studies on Impact

Andrew Gray, Wikipedian in Residence, British Library
To ensure that the most up-to-date material is disseminated it has become more important than ever for the academic world to embrace Wikipedia and feed into this way of sharing knowledge.

‘City Witness: Place and Perspective in Medieval Swansea’ (2013-2014)
The project defined the cultural and economic value of the medieval context, informed town planning, to restore and embed Swansea in tourism routes.

The Construction of Personal Identity Online
Who are we online? How do I, as well as other people, define and re-identify myself online? What is it like to be that particular me (or another me with a different PIO), in a virtual environment? And how will my online and offline identities merge into a single ‘onlife’ me?

Source: http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/research/casestudies/
UK REF Impact Wheels

Examples of Thematic Wheels
Work, labour and employment
Democracy and Political Engagement
Public Engagement
Film and theatre
Arts and Culture
Museums and Exhibitions
Literature
Informing Government Policy
Media
Print Media and Publishing
Historical Archives
Music, Dance and Performance
Climate Change
There are Impact lessons from the REF 2014

King College London Study (March 2015) into the *Nature, scale and beneficiaries of research impact* found that:

1. Societal impact from research from UK HEIs is “considerable, diverse and fascinating”.
2. Research underpinning societal impact is multidisciplinary (80% of impact case studies) and the benefits are multi-impactful.
3. The number of unique pathways to impact (3,709) suggest there is no standard pathway to impact. Therefore future impact exercises should continue to be narrative based.
4. Different types of HEI specialise in different types of impact.
5. UK HEIs have a global impact – contributions to every country in the world.

In terms of lessons for the future:

1. The evidence supporting claims of impact was so diverse that development of robust impact metrics is unlikely.
2. Standardised definitions and way of telling impact stories would be helpful.
UK Research Council tips for articulating potential impact

• Draft the Impact Summary very early in your preparation, so that it informs the design of your research.

• Remember to consider and include project specific costs relating to proposed impact activities (e.g. engagement workshops or marketing materials, publication costs, etc).

• The purpose of the Impact Summary is to provide a short description of the beneficiaries and potential impacts, which could be used in the public domain. Pathways to Impact should set out what the applicant(s) will do to realise the potential impacts.

• Public engagement is a popular form of impact activity. For such activities to be as effective as possible, try to think of your research in the context of two-way engagement not just outreach.
Johns Hopkins was founded on the principle that by pursuing big ideas and sharing what we learn, we make the world a better place. For more than 135 years, we haven’t strayed from that vision.

- Discovered the sweetening agent Saccharin (1879)
- Introduced the rubber glove for use during surgery (1889)
- Developed the processes for large-scale chlorination of water (1918)
- Developed the antiseptic Mercurochrome (1919)
- Develop the first supersonic ramjet engine (1944)
- Confirmed the authenticity of the Dead Sea Scrolls 1948)
- Invented cardiopulmonary resuscitation and the heart defibrillating machine (1958)
- Developed the new field of genetic engineering (1960s)
- Invented the implantable heart pacemaker (1972)
- Landed the first spacecraft on an asteroid (2001)

High impact research outcomes can nearly always be distilled down to a single sentence – the underlying research and end user benefit is implicit in the outcome which is backed by extensive long-term evidence and evaluation of the benefits.
Achieving research recognition and impact

Managing tourism in Protected Areas, including World Heritage Sites, in small island states and coastal environments.

Exploring the crucial role of the arts and cultural sector in regional development of Australia’s most remote communities.

Replacing ineffective practices with innovative solutions, providing patients with better healthcare and saving global healthcare providers hundreds of millions of dollars.

Informing policy and practice on the sustainable management of urban environments in coastal areas.

Exploring Australia’s ancient past to inform decisions about the future.
Achieving research recognition and impact

The difficult return: arts-based approaches to mental health literacy and building resilience with returned military personnel and their families (ARC Discovery Project administered by Griffith) (2010–2013)

Some outcomes include:


Special Edition of the Arts and Health Journal featuring international practice [http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rahe20/7/2](http://www.tandfonline.com/toc/rahe20/7/2) informed the shaping of the ADF pilot.

Mens health charity Movember upon seeing the work invited Griffith to develop and generalise the approach to other areas of mens health. Movember funded a sister project with Griffith’s partners University of British Columbia to develop a play based on our model, that was performed last year, and was staged in London to Prince Harry and hosted by the Canadian High Commission.
Alternatives?

More study on the Science of Impact to fully understand pathways to impact;

Examine international models for providing research students with industry experience during their research programs (e.g. European Industrial Doctorates) and upon graduation (e.g. Canadian industrial R&D Internship Program);

Enhance support for researchers to work in and with industry;

Embed Engagement and Impact deep within the teaching and learning agenda;

Support industry-linked research centres such as Cooperative Research Centres.
Questions and Discussion


Griffith researchers:
Maxime Aubert, Place, Evolution and Rock Art Heritage Unit
Adam Brumm, Environmental Futures Research Institute