

Second Edition, 17<sup>th</sup> July 2006

# Research Services

## Research Update

### Professor Barney Glover DVC - Research

Welcome to the second edition of the Research Services Newsletter. We received a great deal of positive feedback from the initial newsletter, so it seems that it is filling a need and providing useful information to researchers. Please do let us know if you have any suggestions on how we might improve the newsletter.

The Research Quality Framework is still very much on the University's agenda. On 16<sup>th</sup> June the Minister for Education, Science and Training announced that the RQF would proceed, although its implementation would be deferred until 2008, to allow more time to develop the RQF model. The RQF Development Advisory Group will report to the Minister on the precise form and operation of the RQF by October of this year. The University has initiated a number of strategies in preparation for the RQF, including the current Priority Research Centres round and the development of software to assist researchers in compiling RQF portfolios. Naturally when more information is available on the details of the RQF model we will be able to undertake more specific planning, and the Research Services Newsletter will be a very valuable way of providing information to the research community on this and other significant issues.

## RESEARCH DATA & INTEGRITY UNIT –

The Research Data & Integrity Unit has responsibility for research ethics and administrative data relating to research activity (for example, research income and publication numbers).

### HERDC Data

The Data Management Unit has just completed the annual Higher Education Research Data Collection. This reports on the University's research income and publication output for 2005. Research income totalled **\$51.27 Million** (up nearly 20% from the 2004 figure of \$42.8M). This is a very strong result, reflecting the quality of our academic staff and their ability to attract external research funds in a highly competitive environment. The total number of DEST recognised publications was **944** (down nearly 10% from the high of 1043 in 2004). This information is used by DEST in determining our research block grant earnings for next year. Sincere thanks to all staff who assisted in the collection of the HERDC data.

### Other Data Management Functions include:

1. Co-ordinating information to manage research grants

The Researchers Financial Reporting System aims to assist researchers in managing their grants. See: <http://webapps.newcastle.edu.au/index.cfm>

2. Providing access to research activity information held by the Research Office

The Web Access Research Portal (WARP) is designed to allow researchers to check the information held by Research Services. WARP now integrates data from Callista and NUSTAR to show information on research income, publication output, RHD supervision and completions. See: <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/warp/index.html>

3. Research Statistics

A number of data sets are available on sector, institutional and Faculty performance in research income earnings, publication output and RHD load and completions. See:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/researchperformance/statistics/researchstatistics.html>

We welcome your feedback on ways to improve any of these services or suggestions for new services. Please send any comments to [Rod.Lewis@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Rod.Lewis@newcastle.edu.au)

## In This Issue

Report from  
Professor Glover,  
DVC Research

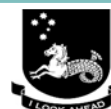
HERD C - Feature

What's coming up in  
Research Services?

CURFs for  
Researchers

Statistics Corner

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research>



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## What's happening in Research?

**Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) for Researchers** - Confidentialised Unit Record Files (CURFs) hold data from Australian Bureau of Statistics surveys in the form of unit records, and contain detailed statistical information for researchers to run statistical reports using SAS or SPSS software. The University of Newcastle currently uses a large number of CURFs in its research activities.

There are three different methods of accessing CURFs, on CD-ROM, via the Remote Access Data Laboratory (RADL) and the ABS Site Data Laboratory (ABSDL), and three different levels of use; Basic, Expanded and Specialist.

To gain access to CURFs researchers are required to submit an application to the ABS to become authorised users. The University of Newcastle Contact Officer for the management of CURFs is Katie Battiston.

For more information about use of CURFs at the University of Newcastle please see

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/library/services/curfs.html> or contact Katie Battiston: [Katie.Battiston@newcastle.edu.au](mailto:Katie.Battiston@newcastle.edu.au) or 4921 2018. For more general information about CURFs see the Australian Bureau of Statistics website [www.abs.gov.au](http://www.abs.gov.au) – Services We Provide.

**Human Ethics** - From 1 January 2006 an Agreement between the University and Hunter New England Health (HNEH) came into effect streamlining procedures for gaining ethics approval for human research. In most cases, projects that previously would have required submissions to the Human Research Ethics Committee (HREC) of both the University and HNEH now require a full submission to one HREC only. However, University researchers must Register HNEH approvals to be covered by the University's insurance, and conjoint staff Register if they are supervising student research or have a grant administered by the University. Full details are available from

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/human/newproc.html>

**Animal Ethics** - The 2005 NHMRC Statement of Compliance and the report on Animal Use Statistics for 2005 have been submitted to NHMRC and NSW Department of Primary Industries respectively. Guidelines currently being prepared for consideration by the Animal Care & Ethics Committee include pre-and post-operative care of animals, aseptic surgical techniques (review of current guidelines), and research involving work conducted off-campus. The animal ethics website has been updated in the following areas:

- "Frequently Asked Questions" - see <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/animal/docs/faq.html>
- Information on the training resources available from the Auchmuty Library. These include DVDs and CD ROMs on handling, anesthesia, surgery and animal monitoring.

See <http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/animal/training.html#resource>

**Grants** - The Research Office recently held an Early Career Researcher Workshop. Given the positive responses from those who attended we are planning on holding a bi-monthly workshop with the first of these at 1-2pm on 22/8/06.

Further information will be circulated via the Research Office whatsnew email list and HR bulletins. The Research Office has three email circulation lists to notify researchers of upcoming funding opportunities/events, ARC

funding/announcements and NHMRC funding/announcements. It is highly recommended that researchers subscribe to these lists. To subscribe or for further information please view the following web site:

<http://www.newcastle.edu.au/research/grants/lists.html>

### Statistics Corner (January – June 2006)

Human Ethics	June	YTD	Animal Ethics	June	YTD	Grants	June	YTD
Human Ethics Initial Applications Processed	19	68	Animal Ethics Initial Applications Processed	13	25	External grant applications processed	11	287
Human Ethics Project Variation Applications	10	76	Animal Ethics Variation Applications Processed	12	38	External grant awards processed	10	98
Human Ethics Approval Renewal Applications	1	6	Animal Ethics Variation Applications (Personnel) Processed	6	46	Value of external grant awards processed	590K	12M
Human Ethics Registration of HNEH approvals	6	14	Animal Ethics Application Renewals Processed	2	66			
			Inspections Performed	5	13			