



Australian Government

Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research

SUSTAINABLE RESEARCH EXCELLENCE IN UNIVERSITIES

(1) Overview

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SRE Context

Powering Ideas

- Increase the number of research groups performing at world-class levels
- Need high quality universities that can:
 - deliver world class research that drives and supports innovation now
 - secure the supply of highly skilled researchers to generate ideas and drive innovation in the future
- A priority is to address the gap in funding for indirect costs of research





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SRE Context

- The focus of the SRE program is on supporting research excellence and securing its sustainability over the longer term.
- SRE is part of an integrated suite of reforms to boost the competitiveness of Australian university research and ensure that Australia receives the highest possible dividend from its investment in this area.
- The emphasis is on sustainability and accountability





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SRE Objectives

\$510 million over four years:

- To support the indirect costs associated with undertaking research funded by an Australian Competitive Grant (ACG)
- Increase transparency and accountability to ensure that resources are allocated rationally and used efficiently





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SRE Funding

Funding elements - 2010

- **Base** – calculated using RIBG methodology
- **Threshold 1** - calculated by applying RIBG methodology to ACG income (\$ACG) up to \$2.5m
- **Threshold 2** – proportional allocation based on relative share of \$ACG above \$2.5m moderated by performance (Research Active Staff/weighted publications)
- **Implementation (2010 only)** – to meet additional costs incurred in participating in Transparent Costing (TC) trials





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SRE Funding

Funding elements - 2011

- **Base** – calculated using RIBG methodology
- **Threshold 1** - calculated by applying RIBG methodology to \$ACG up to \$2.5m
- **Threshold 2** – proportional allocation based on relative share of \$ACG above \$2.5m moderated by performance (Research Active Staff/weighted publications) **and Transparent Costing**





SRE Key dates

So far:	TC methodology and Staff Survey 1 template released 2010 Transparent Costing trial commences
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Next:	
30 April	Survey 1 returns due to the Department
May	Analysis of data and consultation with HERDAC and sector
June/July	Survey 2 to be conducted
30 June	Financial data due
31 August	Survey 2 returns due to the Department
Aug-Nov	TC trial outcomes tested, modelled and reviewed 2011 TC specifications finalised
End 2010	Universities advised of funding allocation for SRE for 2011





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Transparent Costing – Why?

- To identify the indirect costs associated with conducting research – in particular, ACG research
- To reflect legitimate differences in indirect costs between universities
- 2010 is a [trial year](#) for Transparent Costing





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TC Principles

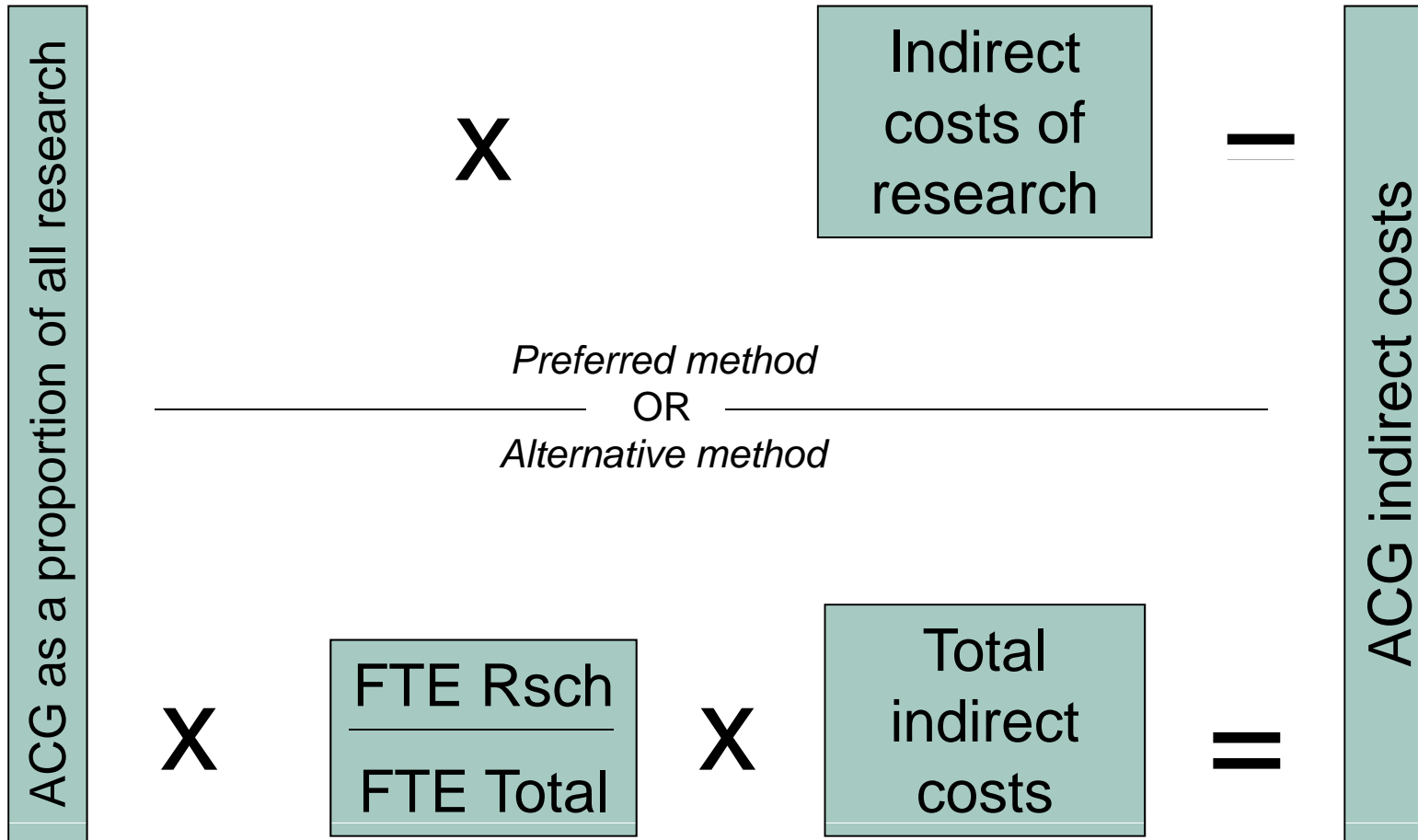
- Fitness for purpose
- Simplicity
- Cost efficiency
- Transparency
- Equity of treatment
- No “double dipping”
- Materiality
- Reasonableness



TC – How?

SURVEY INPUT

FINANCE INPUT





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