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ERA illustrates breadth and depth of Australian research

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** has welcomed the Excellence in Research for Australia (ERA) results released today, showing the impressive breadth and range of innovation taking place across the higher education sector. ATN Executive Director, Vicki Thomson said that the ERA initiative has illustrated the extent of excellent research taking place in Australia.

“A key message that can be taken away from the ERA exercise is that many Australian universities are hitting well above their weight in relation to research performance when referenced to institutional age,” Ms Thomson said. “Across the ATN, for example, despite all of our members being less than 30 years old, we have produced world class research in 137 different research areas.

“We are very pleased to see that ERA has revealed our strong performance across the network in areas such as Chemical Sciences; Nursing; Applied Mathematics; and Language, Communication and Culture - all areas critical to developing our national skills and research base.

“The ERA results also point to areas where there is broad scope to expand the breadth of Australia’s world-class research. The ATN believes it should be a key goal of Australia’s research investment to support the development of at least 1000 world-class research centres and to build the next generation of such centres.

“This is critical to ensure that our international research engagement is not carried by relatively few groups or organisations with a limited age or geographic distribution, and will ensure the sustainable growth required to maintain Australia’s international reputation and profile.”

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