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## **ATN universities growing strongly**

The **Australian Technology Network of Universities (ATN)** in response to Excellence in Research for Australia 2010 applauds the success of our most research-intensive universities and draws attention to how many of Australia's younger universities are performing at or well above world class levels in a range of key discipline areas. The ERA outcomes can give Australia confidence that there is a cohort of next generation research intensive universities that will build and nurture capacity in the national research and innovation system.

The ATN considers that whilst the ERA exercise represented a snapshot of research occurring during an early phase in each of its members' research trajectory, the outcomes signal the growing volume and quality of ATN research.

Professor Ross Milbourne, ATN Chair, said "It is critical that ERA outcomes results in an increased investment that supports world class research in situations wherever they are located. This will ensure that international calibre research will contribute to economic development across Australia." Professor Milbourne highlighted that it would be more appropriate to consider institutional performance in this last ERA exercise in bands of performance related to the number of 4 digit FORs in which performance was at or above world standard rather than defaulting to ERA 'ranking tables'.

"The Australian Technology Network of Universities is pleased for the focus that ERA gives to the quantity and quality of research underway in Australian universities. ATN universities are equipping themselves through their planning, staff and investment to further grow and develop research performance in areas of strategic importance to respective ATN members. For younger universities who are rapidly increasing research performance, ERA data may show their latest achievements but does show that they are going in the right direction, growing their research capabilities and performance. While individual performance is always to be commended there is a broader story of our institutions, which have the capacity for significant research growth going into the future."

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