REPORTING OF RESEARCH RESULTS
VICTORIA UNIVERSITY

Purpose
The purpose of this policy is to articulate the reporting of research results both externally and internally at a School level.

Background
Consistent with government reporting requirements it is University Policy to encourage research activities in designated Areas of Research Strength with a focus on research activity conducted in the associated designated University Research Centres (URC), Key Research Areas (KRA) and Institutes. University Policy is designed to achieve a limited number of areas of critical mass (URC, KRA or Institutes) that give significant profile and reputation to the University. While it is recognised that not all of the University’s research effort will be in the Areas of Research Strengths, it is the aim that at least 70% of the University research activity will be undertaken within the Areas of Research Strength.

The currently designated Areas of Research Strength are:
- Strategic Economic Studies
- Environmental Safety and Fire Risk Engineering
- Rehabilitation, Exercise and Sport Science
- Telecommunications and Microelectronics
- Hospitality and Tourism
- Corporate Governance
- Medical Biotechnology
- Packaging, Transportation and Storage
- Integrated Food Value Chain
- Social Diversity and Community Wellbeing.

Attached to each of these Areas of Research Strength, is a University Research Centre, Key Research Area or an Institute. There are significant benefits to be gained by staff of Schools formally associating with URC, KRA and Institutes; these benefits are detailed subsequently.

External Reporting
It is Policy that the University will report research results externally at the following levels only:
- University Research Centres, Key Research Areas, Institutes and Areas of Research Strength
- Faculties inclusive of University Research Centres.

Typically the following research results will be reported externally:
- External research income
- Number of DEST recognised publications
- Research student load
- Research degree completions
- Number of Research Associates formally affiliated with University Research Centres, Key Research Areas, or Institutes.

For example, the University is required to report to government against each of its Area of Research Strength, the following information:
- Number of active research staff
- Research Student Load
- External Research Income.
Further, the University is required to provide data relevant to staff who supervise research students.

**Benefits of Association with URC, KRA and Institutes**

There are significant internal benefits to be gained by formal association of a staff member either with a URC, KRA or Institute. These include:

- Double quantum, some of which can be distributed to Schools on an agreed basis
- Exclusive allocation of Research Infrastructure Block Grants (to URCs or Institutes)
- Preferential funding levels for internal research grants
- Preferential allocation of commencing Research Training Scheme students.

The latter two categories are applicable also to affiliation to our Areas of Research Strength.

Formal association with a URC, KRA or Institutes is achieved by completing a proforma entitled ‘Research Associates of University Research Centres and Key Research Areas’.

Benefits, as previously outlined, will flow to the Centre (and School), provided the researcher attributes their work to the URC, KRA or Institute.

As an alternative to association, it is possible to affiliate with an Area of Research Strength; refer to the attached document entitled ‘Research Associates of University Research Centres and Key Research Areas’.

Staff may associate/affiliate with more than one Area of Research Strength.

**School Reporting**

While some research staff are employed in either URCs, KRAs or Institutes, it is recognised that Schools are responsible for a significant deployment of internal resources to support research. For example, by the designation of academic staff as research active and the enrolment and supervision of research students. As outlined previously staff of Schools are strongly encouraged, where appropriate, to formally associate with URC, KRA or Institutes or to affiliate with an Area of Research Strength.

Accordingly, and for internal reporting purposes only, the following internal research information will normally be reported at a School level:

- Number and percentage of Research Active Staff
- Number and percentage of Research Associates formally affiliated/associated with ARS, URCs, KRAs, Institutes
- Number and percentage of research students affiliated/associated with ARS, URCs, KRAs, Institutes
- Data on completion times for research students, including percentage of timely completions
- Number and percentage of Registered Supervisors.

**Professor Vaughan Beck**
**Pro-Vice-Chancellor**
**(Research & Development)**
**July 2003**
RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

of

UNIVERSITY RESEARCH CENTRES

and

KEY RESEARCH AREAS

I ……………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

hereby agree to become a Research Associate of the

…………………………………………………………………………………………………………………………..Centre/KRA*

I agree to attribute relevant grant applications, research grants received and/or publications to the Centre/KRA. Attribution is achieved by inclusion of the Centre or KRA name in the by-line or address of the publication or grant/contract.

It is acknowledged that, under the Institutional Grants Scheme, any DEST recognised external research grants received and/or publications generated, and appropriately attributed by me as a Research Associate under this arrangement, will result in the internal distribution of double-weighting for Research Support funding to the appropriate Centre/KRA.

It is also acknowledged that the Centre/KRA will normally distribute part of its Research Support funding back to the School, as determined by University policy in the case of KRA or by prior separate agreement in the case of a Centre, in recognition of my contribution as a Research Associate in generating a component of the Institutional Grant Scheme funds.

Furthermore, it is acknowledged that as part of this Agreement, the parties may also agree on the Research time/workload to be devoted by the Research Associate in relation to Centre/KRA.

…………………………………  ……………………………  ……………………………
Signature

…………………………………  ……………………………  ……………………………
Name
Research Associate**  Head of School  Director Centre/KRA

…………………………………  ……………………………  ……………………………
Date

* University Designated Research Centre/Key Research Area
** Also I intend to become either:

a  A Research Associate of the following Centre/KRA ____________________________, or;

b  A Research Affiliate of the following Area of Research Strength ____________________.

c. Alternatively, I do not intend to become a Research Associate or a Research Affiliate of any other entity outside of this Agreement.
NOTES:
1. This form should be completed by any staff member or student wishing to attribute research income or publications to a Centre or a KRA. Staff members employed directly by a KRA or Centre need not register as Research Associates.
2. It is possible, with appropriate approval and sign off, for a staff member to be a Research Associate/Affiliate of more than one Centre/KRA.
3. Staff members who do not wish to be a Research Associate of a Centre/KRA have the opportunity to affiliate with an Area of Research Strength of the University. (See the attached document.)
4. The earliest date for commencement of this Agreement is 1 January 2003.
5. This Agreement will remain operative unless rescinded in writing by one of the parties, and the Office for Research and Development is informed.
6. Only Centres are eligible to apply for the allocation of funds under the Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG). In the selection process for the allocation of RIBG funding, weighting will be given to those applications that include a Research Associate as a direct participant.
7. Allocation of double-weighting component to the Centre/KRA requires both appropriate attribution and a signed Agreement.
8. The signed form is to be lodged with the Office for Research and Development.

AREAS OF RESEARCH STRENGTH

1. RESEARCH AFFILIATES OF AREAS OF RESEARCH STRENGTHS
As an alternative to designation as a Research Associate, academic staff may affiliate with a University designated Area of Research Strength (ARS).

This is achieved by ticking the appropriate ARS box on the Research Data Collection forms for publications and/or external research grants.

While affiliation provides alignment with an ARS, it does not result in the flow of benefits as outlined for Research Associates of University Research Centres and Key Research Areas. Affiliation enables the University to quantify the level of activity in each of the designated ARS. There are other benefits for alignment with an Area of Research Strength. There are detailed below under the section on the Research Training Scheme.

Staff who are Research Associates of a University Research Centre of a Key Research Area are aligned with the relevant ARS for appropriately attributed research outputs.

2. RESEARCH TRAINING SCHEME
Funding allocated by the University as part of the Budget process for the Research Training Scheme is distributed to faculties based partly on a performance allocation formula for commencing students and partly in recognition of the faculties continuing load.

Faculties nominate students for commencing places. Preference is given to those students with stipend scholarships and who intend to enrol in an Area of Research Strength.

Faculties are responsible for the internal distribution of the funding allocated.

NOTE: University Designated Research Centres or Key Research Areas are part of designated Areas of Research Strength.

July 2003