



**RAGSO STATEMENT OF
STRATEGIC INTENT 2008 – 2011 AND 2008 PRIORITIES**



RAGSO Statement of Strategic Intent 2008 - 2011

School/Section: RESEARCH and GRADUATE STUDIES OFFICE (RAGSO)

Statement of Purpose

The role of the Research and Graduate Studies Office (RAGSO) is to help the University achieve its strategic goals in research and research training by:

- Providing advice on policy development, as well as issues that arise, in research management and the management of research training.
- Coordinating and delivering training and development programs for researchers, research supervisors, and higher degree by research students.
- Providing high quality Executive support and / or administrative support to:
 - The management of research, including preparation for the Excellence in Research for Australia, and to the Institute for Regional and Rural Research and Innovation
 - The management of research training
 - Research ethics applications and approvals
 - External and internal research grant schemes
 - Institutional bio-safety compliance requirements
- Providing general support for researchers and pastoral care for higher degree by research students
- Managing the research database
- Collecting, monitoring, analysing and presenting in summary form, data on the University's research performance

RAGSO staff report directly to the Team Leader. The Director of the Institute for Regional and Rural Research and Innovation manages RAGSO. The Dean of Graduate Studies oversees research training. The Director and the Dean of Graduate Studies report to the Deputy Vice-Chancellor.



RAGSO Statement of Strategic Intent 2008 - 2011

Context Statement

Major factors shaping the operating environment of RAGSO are:

- The introduction of the Excellence in Research for Australia.
RAGSO will play a significant role in the preparation for ERA, and lead the efforts in data gathering for the University's participation in the ERA.
- The continuing emphasis on improving the research and research training functions and performance.
RAGSO will provide support for the activities to improve research and research training functions and performance.
- The University's Objectives, specifically:
 - Our Graduates – RAGSO plays a significant role in all aspects of higher degree by research training
 - Our Students' Learning – RAGSO plays a significant role in all aspects of higher degree by research training
 - Our Research and Knowledge Transfer – RAGSO plays a significant supporting role in the University achieving its targets, and in providing data on Key Performance Indicators.
- The increasing competition for research students.
RAGSO will continue to pro-actively support the recruitment and retention of high-calibre research students.
- The increasing competition for research grants.
RAGSO will be pro-active in coordinating improvements to the grant preparation processes, and increased support to researchers applying for grants, and researchers who hold existing grants.
- The University's review of its research and development of research strategy for the next five years.
RAGSO will provide support to IRRRI in leading this effort, and administrative support to the associated activities.



RAGSO Statement of Strategic Intent 2008 - 2011

Priority Areas in the short-to-medium term for RAGSO are:

- Preparation for the first cycle of the ERA (2008-2009). RAGSO will:
 - Upgrade the research database to provide an integrated data management and reporting system
 - Coordinate the integration of the database and electronic repositories
 - Coordinate the required collection of research data and development of individual researcher and research group portfolios
 - Provide high-quality administrative support
- RAGSO will assist the University to use the 2009 audit by the Australian Universities Quality Agency to highlight the University's achievements and prioritise future improvements in research and research training.
- To continue to develop high quality training and professional development for researchers, research supervisors and higher degree by research students.
- To support the University's efforts to improve its research performance and to provide high-quality data on Key Performance Indicators.
- To continue to promote a supportive, learning environment for its staff.



RAGSO 2008 Priorities

School/Section RAGSO

University Key Objectives	Initiative Aim	Proposed Actions	Proposed Outcome	Responsibility	Funding Source
<p>Our Graduates</p> <p><i>To have graduates with knowledge, skills and competence that enable them to stand out as capable, continuous learners who are self-reliant, ethical and engaged citizens</i></p> <p>Our Students' Learning</p> <p><i>To provide access to effective and high quality learning and research opportunities for Australian and international students enabling them to realise their potential</i></p>	<p>Continue to improve the experience and knowledge of our research post-graduate students</p> <p>Improve assessment processes for undergraduate courses and postgraduate coursework</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve advertising & promotion of scholarships • Continue to provide pastoral care • Continue to build Graduate Centre and Supervisor Training Programs • Provide training and development programs to assist research students in the development of the core attributes • Provide training programs for HDR students for conf presentations • Administer SEPP and follow up • Build on successful Annual Research Conference • Foster research interactions in Aust overseas to broaden the research training experience • Recognize milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Confirmation ○ Completion of Graduate Centre training ○ Submission ○ Graduation • Upgrade research database post-graduate module (PORTIA) • Improve and administer UB's assessment processes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SET, SEU 	<p>Increasing placements for future employment</p> <p>Positive feedback from Graduate Centre Program</p> <p>PREQ</p> <p>RAGSO Service Agreement timelines are met</p>	<p>Erica Smith</p> <p>Di Clingin</p> <p>Erica Smith (with Student Services)</p> <p>Steve Chambers</p>	<p>Will include base funding and funding from other proposed sources.</p>



RAGSO 2008 Priorities

School/Section RAGSO

University Key Objectives	Initiative Aim	Proposed Actions	Proposed Outcome	Responsibility	Funding Source
Our Research and Knowledge Transfer (cont'd)	Establish new, and continue to coordinate, training and development programs for researchers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to develop the induction program • Review and track graduates from ECR • Implement an Emerging Research Leaders training program • Continue to build Supervisor Training Program 	Researcher development programs are established, are promoted and attract participation	Di Clingin Joel Epstein Erica Smith	Will include base funding and funding from other proposed sources.
	Continue to provide executive support for key Committees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RHDSC • Research Committee • HREC • AEC • IBC • IRRRI Exec 	Agendas and Minutes processed within RAGSO Service Agreement timeframes	Executive Officers within RAGSO	
	Improve the collection and reporting of research performance data (in parallel with Data for ERA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the research database • Improve efficiency of timely data collection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Publication data ○ Research income data ○ Completions 	RM upgrade by 2008 RM training to commence late 2008	Steve Chambers	



RAGSO 2008 Priorities

School/Section RAGSO

University Key Objectives	Initiative Aim	Proposed Actions	Proposed Outcome	Responsibility	Funding Source
Our Research and Knowledge Transfer (cont'd)	Assist researchers to improve their management of existing projects and to ensure compliance of Government guidelines for approved grants	Improve administration of reporting procedures to ensure that all progress reports and exception reports are provided on time <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Timely reminders- - Increased frequency of communication- RM upgrade – projects module	Timely reporting to external agencies and improved compliance	Steve Chambers	Will include base funding and funding from other proposed sources.



RAGSO 2008 Priorities

School/Section RAGSO

University Key Objectives	Initiative Aim	Proposed Actions	Proposed Outcome	Responsibility	Funding Source
<p>Our Staff</p> <p><i>To create a stimulating, rewarding, safe and sustainable work environment where staff are valued, their expertise, skills and knowledge are fully used and where there are opportunities for renewal and career development</i></p>	<p>Continue to provide opportunities for career development</p> <p>Continue to build a rewarding and satisfying workplace environment</p> <p>Continue to build a team</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide and monitor development opportunities for RAGSO staff through PRDP • Recognize individual and team achievements • Continue to develop back-up capabilities and team approaches 	<p>PRDP is implemented</p> <p>Appropriate development opportunities are implemented as part of PRDP process</p> <p>Good atmosphere & harmonious working relationships, willingness to back-up each other</p>	<p>Di Clingin (& Joel Epstein)</p> <p>Di Clingin</p>	<p>Will include base funding and funding from other proposed sources.</p>