

Attention all early to mid-career researchers... THE RESULTS ARE IN!

Many thanks to the 82 of you completed our survey. The majority of you were early career researchers (44% n =35), followed by HDR students (31% n =25) and most of you were aligned with the School of Law and Business (37.9%, n =22) followed by the School of Arts and Humanities (24.1% n =14).

Most of you felt that the University supported you in **building your career and track record** the university, however many of you indicated that you were unsure as to whether the university supported you. Commonly you felt more supported by supervisors and immediate work colleagues rather than the School or University, and that workload and policy obstructed progress in developing career/track record. A number of you indicated a lack of direction and a sense of conflicting priorities in terms of building your career.

When we asked you how the university could better **support your research activities** the most common response was to address workload issues/allocate more time to research. Other suggestions included: to encourage/provide a mentor program for senior researchers to mentor early/mid-career researchers, to provide greater financial assistance (e.g. conference funding); to provide information and opportunities that will foster collaboration and collegiality (e.g. information about research focus in other Schools/provide opportunities to discuss cross-discipline collaboration); to provide training/professional development and to improve communication (e.g. knowing what support is available, a calendar of events indicating when research grants become available/ are due; ensure a longer lead time on scheduled events/ensure that RAs receive communications).

When we asked you about the **aspects of research**, at ECU and within Australia, that you wanted to better understand common responses included grant writing skills and opportunities (e.g. how to write successful grant applications), collaboration and networking (e.g. opportunities and 'how to'), how to build career/track record and how to access and understand performance metrics.

Most of you had not heard of us (the Early-Mid Career Research Network; 53.66%) and an even larger majority had not attended any events organised by us (73.17%). Watch this space as we hope to change this in the near future!!!!

When we asked you about the **events/opportunities** that you wanted to see us organise you suggested: opportunities for networking and collaboration (within the university and with external stakeholders); methodology/analysis workshops (e.g. biostatistics, hierarchical linear modelling); writing workshops (e.g. targeting journals, smart writing) and grant writing workshops (e.g. applications for ARC). Most of you said you would be likely to attend any event that we organised, regardless of whether it was School specific or between schools (52%, n= 37). Equal numbers of you indicated a preference for events specific to your School (28%, n= 20), and between School events (28%, n= 20).

As a result of this survey we have two events planned.....

Survey results August 2017 of the ECR/MCR community at ECU