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# Collaborative Research Network: An Institutions Perspective

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<http://ro.ecu.edu.au/ecupres/1>

# Collaborative Research Network: an institutions perspective

AeRO National Forum

26 July 2013



1. What constitutes collaborative working?
2. Collaborative Research Network (CRN)
3. eResearch @ ECU
4. Conclusion



## ***Collaboration is an essential part of research***

Why is Collaboration essential?

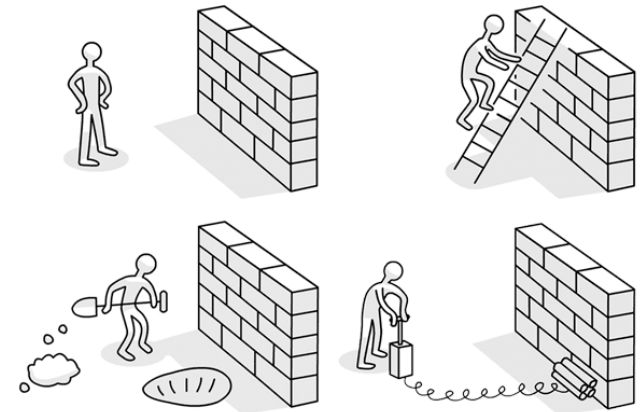
- Change in funding patterns
- Financial costs
- Political pressures
- New technologies



# Concerns/Obstacles to Collaboration

Major obstacles that have to be considered while establishing a collaboration

- i. Financial costs
- ii. Set-up - Time
- iii. Travel
- iv. Intellectual property ownership
- v. Proximity of collaborators
- vi. Distribution of workload



- Need to balance concerns with the potential long-term benefits
- Collaboration cannot start until there is a shared agenda of work / program of work
- Three levels
  - i. High level:** different institutions / funding split across partners / sustainability / trust / expansion
  - ii. Mid level:** lead agency maintains the majority of the funding / problems of competition
  - iii. Low level:** occasional collaborations / small projects / consultancy / little chance of sustainability

# Possible models of Collaboration

- Collaborative Networks
- Research / Support Facility
- Cooperative Research Centre
- Centre of Excellence
- Communities of Practice
- Clusters



- ECU is committed to growing research, by increasing strategic research budget
  - Collaboration
  - Research expertise
  - HDR student scholarships
  - Postdoctoral appointments
  - Support for early career researchers
- DIISRTE funding \$5,615,052 plus cash/in-kind of \$12,146,011: Total \$17,761,061
- **Nine Partner Universities:** UWA, UMel, Flinders, UoSA, QUT, Deakin, USyd, UQ, and UA
- Website: <http://www.ecu.edu.au/research/office-of-research-and-innovation/collaborative-research-network/overview>



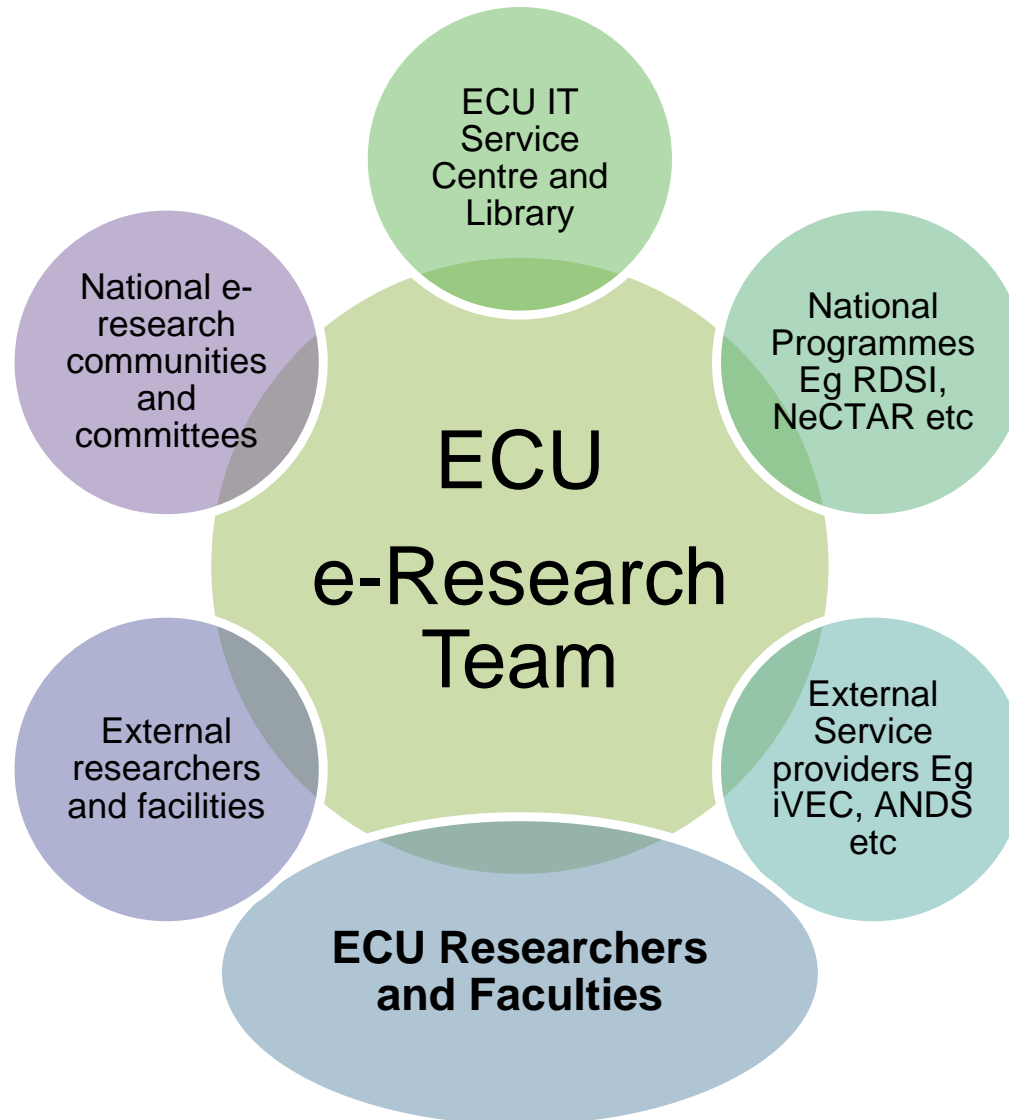
# CRN sub-projects

1. Promotion of Mental Health and Wellbeing in Young People – Donna Cross (5 partner: UWA, UM, Flinders, UoSA & QUT)
2. Exercise Medicine for the Prevention and Management of chronic Disease - Rob Newton (2 partners: UQ & USyd)
3. Integrated Health Services to Enhance Community-Based Care – Cobie Rudd (3 partners: UWA, UM & UQ)
4. Nano-photonics and Nano-electronics to Support National Frontier Technologies - Kamal Alameh (2 partners: UM & UAdelaide)
5. Protection of Coastal Ecosystems and Marine Resource Management - Paul Lavery (1 partner: UWA)
6. Advanced Technologies for Leading Teaching and Education Practice - Mark Hackling (2 partners: UM & Deakin)

- Increase in Senior Research Staff
- Increase in Post Doctoral Research Staff
- Increase in Research development Staff
- Increase in Higher Degree Students
- Increase in Visiting Fellows
- Increase in Workshops and Training Schools
- Increase in Book Chapters
- Increase in Journal Article Submissions
- Increase in Joint Grant Applications

- **AIM:** Build and develop eResearch capabilities at ECU
- iVEC @ ECU Facility established in Aug 2012
- eResearch Strategy (2013-2016)
  - Areas for engagement: link to ERA outcomes and strategic priorities
  - Infrastructure development
  - Funding opportunities (work with iVEC)
  - Collaboration with service centres and research teams
  - Assist with the development of grant applications
  - Develop the iVEC facility / Visualisation suite / software and hardware options for the research community

# eResearch @ ECU stakeholders



- Visualisation Facility (WAAPA, SCA, SEd, SCSS, SMed Sci etc)
  - Motion Capture
  - iDome
  - 3D Stereo projection
- HPC Uptake (SOE, SCSS, SCA etc)
- Education (Various)
- eResearch Development (Various)



Curtin University



- Research data management (RDM) policy and guidelines
  - provide structure for data archiving and sharing; consistent with National good practice and research ethics requirements
  - RDM policy/guidelines currently being developed
  - Data Management Plan
  - Publish / Implement / Educate
    - Seminars (in conjunction with the Library)
    - Disseminate to ADR, HoS, GRS and Research Teams
- Aims:
  - *Provide a process map to assist research staff/students*
  - *Ensure the infrastructure is in place for research data*
  - *Provide governance arrangements*
  - *Provide a facility to share data with collaborators*



1. Without collaboration ECU would not have been able to develop the CRN, eResearch and the iVEC@ECU Facility
2. Balanced distribution of funds and personnel, and 'Wins for all partners'
3. Communication and Trust are essential to a successful collaboration



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