

CALD Standing Committee on Research and Scholarship: Recommendation 1.6

The Statement

‘In light of the serious concerns regarding metric-based research assessment raised by the Bowrey Report and the highly detrimental effect it may pose to Australia’s vibrant research culture in law, CALD condemns the blunt use of quantitative proxies for quality, such as (but not limited to) publishers/journals rankings or citation counts, and cautions against their indiscriminate application towards assessing research activity and/or the research quality of individual researchers in law. CALD notes that the ARC, itself, has expressed reservations about and resiled from certain ERA metric-based measures: notably, journal rankings, now in abeyance. Given this, CALD urges a holistic approach to the assessment of research activity and the research quality of individual researchers in law, utilising both quantitative and qualitative measures, without favouring one over the other, each being subject in the end to inclusive and respectful academic judgement.’