RMIT is renowned for establishing enduring partnerships with industry, community and government. Drawing on knowledge, action and experience, our research and research training programs are designed to foster a cross-disciplinary approach and deliver applied outcomes.

As a relatively young university, RMIT has enormous potential to significantly increase our research activities as our research culture develops and matures. Our cross-disciplinary strengths in design and technology enable us to turn emerging ideas into new practices and to embed innovative knowledge into our curriculum.

The Research and Innovation Plan 2011–2015 provides a roadmap for increasing the quality, scale and impact of our research activity and outcomes. The Plan aims to identify opportunities for new partnerships, to strengthen and expand existing partnerships, and to encourage academic staff and Higher Degree by Research (HDR) students to make an impact through creative and innovative research.

**KEY AREAS FOR RESEARCH FOCUS WILL BE:**

» Designing the future
» Smart technology solutions
» Improving health and lifestyle
» Sustainability and climate change challenges
» The future of cities
OUR PRIMARY AIMS ARE TO:

> Work with partners to develop innovative solutions that translate into benefits for industry and society
> Produce high quality research outcomes
> Develop authoritative knowledge that is accessible to the global research community
> Provide high quality training and support for the next generation of researchers
> Deliver research-informed curriculum through innovative teaching practice in our tertiary education programs

These aims will be achieved by the introduction of three initiatives.

1. **Research nodes in key cities**

   Enhancing and supporting RMIT's engagement in the global research community.

   Working with government and industry, RMIT will establish research nodes in key cities as sites for research and research training. This initiative will support academic staff and HDR students in undertaking international research collaborations and will assist RMIT staff to access funding from international sources. In this way, RMIT’s research outcomes will benefit partners and communities throughout the world.

2. **Urban research laboratories**

   Using our world-class facilities to design, test, implement and showcase innovative practices.

   RMIT campuses are becoming increasingly permeable to the urban life and landscape. RMIT is committed to researching and implementing sustainable practice and using our campuses and nodes in key cities as urban research laboratories.

   Our campuses and research nodes will become sites for designing, testing and implementing solutions to critical problems. Key concerns will include urban liveability, building community resilience and developing effective responses to the causes and effects of climate change.

3. **Deep connections and partnerships**

   Strengthening and deepening our connections with research partners in industry and the community.

   Strong links with our partners enhance the quality and relevance of our qualifications and build the skills and capability of our graduates. We aim to strengthen and deepen links, creating further opportunities not only for our academic staff and HDR students, but for our partner organisations as well. Uniting researchers from different disciplines and sectors will embed community engagement in our research activity and lead to outcomes of potential benefit to industry and society.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

The implementation of the Research and Innovation Plan will be enabled by ensuring high level support of academic staff throughout their research careers, by investing in IT infrastructure and e-Research, by building critical mass through the development of research groups and collaborations, and by communicating our research outcomes and achievements.

The success of the Research and Innovation Plan will be evident through the following outcomes:

> Innovative solutions that translate into benefits for industry and society
> Authoritative knowledge accessible to the global research community
> Next generation of excellent researchers
> Research-informed curriculum, teaching and training

This brochure has been produced to provide an overview of the initiatives and benefits of the Research and Innovation Plan. We encourage you to view the entire plan at www.rmit.edu.au/staff/research/plan2011.