

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome Higher Education Research and International

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000024

Senator Carr, Kim asked on 25 February 2015, Hansard page 138

NCRIS facilities wind-down

Question

Senator KIM CARR: I understand that a number of NCRIS facilities are now beginning wind-down processes. Is that true?

Mr Griew: There are some that have started talking to us as they are concerned as the end of this financial year, and their funding, certainly draws close.

Senator KIM CARR: How many?

Ms Zizi: Fourteen.

Mr English: Fourteen projects have written to either express their view about the current funding situation or to ask about the current funding situation. I would need to interrogate that material further to answer the question you asked.

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Senator KIM CARR: Is it possible to get a copy of the 14 letters that have been sent to the department?

Ms Paul: We would probably need to ask them, but we can do that if you would like us to.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, could you please take that on notice.

Answer

The department received 14 pieces of correspondence from NCRIS facilities following a meeting with the Research Infrastructure Review. The correspondence was addressed to the programme manager for NCRIS arrangements, related to the funding for the programme. Of these, 13 are willing to allow their correspondence to be shared:

- Atlas of Living Australia
- Australian National Fabrication Facility
- Australian Phenomics Network
- Australian Urban Research Infrastructure Network
- Bioplatforms Australia
- CSIRO
- Groundwater
- Heavy Ion Accelerators
- Integrated Marine Observing System
- National Imaging Facility
- Population Health Research Network
- Terrestrial Ecosystems Research Network
- Therapeutic Innovation Australia

An additional \$150 million of funding for NCRIS in 2016-17 was announced as part of the 2015–16 Budget. This commitment brings the total of new funding that the government has committed for NCRIS to \$300 million.