

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000924

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

ARC - Discovery Program

Question

With reference to the Australian Research Council Discovery Programme please provide the:

- (a) total funding allocated for each in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20
- (b) departmental and administered funding allocated for each in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20
- (c) number of organisations funded, or grants allocated, under the program in each in those years, the name of each organisation funded, the purpose of the funding and the dollar value of that funding
- (d) number of individuals projected to be serviced or services to be delivered through each in 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20
- (e) total funding actually expended on each in 2015-16 and 2014-15
- (f) number of individuals actually serviced or services actually delivered through each in 2015-16 and 2014-15
- (g) aggregate staff budget for each in 2016-17, 2015-16 and 2014-15 broken down by i) permanent APS staff and ii) contractors
- (h) number of permanent APS staff responsible for delivering each in 2016-17; 2015-16 and 2014-15, the classification of these staff and their geographic location;
- (i) dollar value of external advice contracted to support each in 2016-17, as well as the number of contractors engaged, the APS-equivalent classification these contractors were engaged at and their geographic location.

Answer

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has provided the following response.

- a) & b) The total funding allocated, and total Departmental and Administered funding allocated for the ARC Discover Program is as follows:

Program	PBS 2015–16 (page 157)		PBS 2016–17 (page 167)			
	2014–15 \$'000s	2015–16 \$'000s	2016–17 \$'000s	2017–18 \$'000s	2018–19 \$'000s	2019–20 \$'000s
Discovery - Administered Annual (Program 1.1)	1,060	1,086	1,112	1,138	1,164	1,193

Program	PBS 2015–16 (page 157)		PBS 2016–17 (page 167)			
	2014–15 \$'000s	2015–16 \$'000s	2016–17 \$'000s	2017–18 \$'000s	2018–19 \$'000s	2019–20 \$'000s
Discovery - Administered Special (Program 1.1)	549,879	526,692	481,390	497,197	497,591	521,435

Please note -: Departmental funding is appropriated at the entity level to enable entities to have the flexibility to allocate funding as they deem appropriate enabling them to meet their priorities and deliverables.

- c) Funding grants under the ARC Discovery Program is contained in the below table. The name of the organisations funded and the dollar value of the funding originally allocated to each organisation is available on the ARC website www.arc.gov.au. Funding is allocated for the purpose of research; details of the purpose of individual grants are available on the ARC website www.arc.gov.au.

Program	Number of grants allocated					
	2014–15	2015–16	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Discovery Program	4,864	4,341	3,100	1,974	1,080	205

- d) The number of individual researchers to be supported on new and ongoing grants in each of 2014–15, 2015–16, 2016–17, 2017–18, 2018–19 and 2019–20 are provided in the table below. Data includes all researchers named on research projects and researchers involved in more than one research project per year have been counted once.

Year	Discovery Program Number of researchers
2014–15	8,300
2015–16	7,855
2016–17	6,140
2017–18	4,246
2018–19	2,533
2019–20	526

- e) The funding expended on the ARC programs, as per the Resource Statements in the ARC Annual Reports 2014–15 (page 248) and 2015–16 (page 171), is as follows:

Program	2014–15 \$'000s	2015–16 \$'000s
Administered Annual Approp.		
Discovery	418	956
Administered Special Approp.		
Discovery	541,648	512,554

Please note -: Departmental funding is appropriated at the entity level to enable entities to have the flexibility to allocate funding as they deem appropriate enabling them to meet their priorities and deliverables.

- f) Refer to question (d).
- g) Departmental funding is allocated at the entity level and as such the ARC does not operate or maintain information in a manner that allows for disaggregation of departmental expenditure, staffing and contractors that specifically relates to the Discovery Program.
- h) Departmental funding is allocated at the entity level and as such the ARC does not operate or maintain information in a manner that allows for disaggregation of departmental staffing that specifically relates to the Discovery Program.

All ARC APS staff are located in Canberra.

- i) Departmental funding is allocated at the entity level and as such the ARC does not operate or maintain information in a manner that allows for disaggregation of departmental expenditure that specifically relates to the Discovery program.

For further information, relating to ARC contractors, refer to SQ16-000975 Contractors and Consultants and SQ16-000982 Labour Hire.