

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: ARC

DEST Question No. E710_04

Senator Carr asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard pp. 38.

Question:

Senator CARR – With regard to access to ARC funding from CSIRO and ANSTO, your annual report mentions four fellowships—and I mentioned them before; the three that you spoke of and one was sent back. Were there any other moneys that CSIRO or ANSTO were able to get access to?

Prof. SARA – Yes. The publicly funded research organisations have access to our training schemes as well as to federation fellowship schemes. They also can come in under all of our programs as partner investigators.

Senator CARR – How much money has been awarded to ANSTO or CSIRO under those programs?

Prof. SARA – I will take that on notice, but there has been some millions provided, particularly to CSIRO.

Senator CARR – How long have they been eligible to apply for grants under those programs?

Prof. SARA – They have been eligible to apply for training fellowships for maybe 10 years. The postdoctoral fellowships, for example, were to support the best training, albeit occurring in universities and organisations like CSIRO.

Senator CARR – How many training fellowships have been awarded to CSIRO or ANSTO?

Prof. SARA – I cannot answer that. I will take it on notice.

Senator CARR – Is AIMS eligible?

Prof. SARA – Yes.

Senator CARR – Has AIMS applied?

Prof. SARA – Again, I will take it on notice.

Answer:

ARC grants awarded to ANSTO, CSIRO and AIMS

ARC has provided the following response:

The eligibility of publicly funded research agencies (PFRAs) (for example, AIMS, ANSTO and CSIRO) to apply for ARC funding varies across the schemes of the National Competitive Grants Program. Under current arrangements, PFRAs are eligible to apply for the following:

- Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (APDs) and Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships (QEII) (under Discovery-Projects);
- Federation Fellowships; and
- certain categories of Fellowship under Linkage International.

Details about PFRA involvement (specifically AIMS, ANSTO and CSIRO) in these schemes (including the number of applications, the number of awards and the funding allocated) are provided in the table below.

PRFA	Applications (no.)	Awards (no.)	Funding (\$)
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships and Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships (Funding commencing: 1998 to 2004)			
AIMS	1998 - 1 APD	0	0
ANSTO	2003 - 3 QEII	0	0
CSIRO	1998 – 5 APD/4 QEII* 1999 – 4 APD/1 QEII 2000 – 1 APD 2001 – 4 APD 2002 – 2 QEII 2003 – 2QEII 2004 – 1 QEII	1998 – 1 APD/1 QEII 1999 – 2 APDs 2001 – 1 APD	Approximately \$1.1 million over the lives of the fellowships
Federation Fellowships (Funding commencing: 2002 and 2003)			
AIMS	0	0	0
ANSTO	2002 – 1	0	0
CSIRO	2002 – 11 2003 – 21	2002 – 1 2003 – 4**	Approximately \$7.2 million over the lives of the 4 fellowships taken up
Linkage International (Funding commencing: 1998 to 2004)			
CSIRO	2002 – 1	0	0

* One application was subsequently withdrawn.

** One fellowship was subsequently not taken up.

In addition to the above schemes, in 2003 the ARC and CSIRO sought applications under a trial collaborative co-funded scheme offering Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships as part of the ARC's National Competitive Grants Program. Under the program – Linkage Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships (CSIRO) – salaries were offered for postdoctoral researchers working in collaborative teams of researchers from one or more universities and one or more CSIRO divisions.

To date the scheme has had a single round of applications. Seventy applications were received, including nine from Divisions of the CSIRO (as the administering organisation). The ten fellowships awarded under the program are worth approximately \$650,000 per annum for three years. While all ten fellowships are administered by universities they involve collaborative research with CSIRO, for example, the successful applications listed 11 CSIRO and 17 university researchers.

During 2003 the ARC also announced the establishment of a new ARC Research Networks scheme. In developing the new scheme, the ARC recognised that planning and preparation of proposals for research networks would require significant intellectual and time commitments. To support the effort of preparing proposals, the ARC sought applications for seed funding under its Special Research Initiatives (SRI) scheme.

PFRAs were eligible to apply for Research Network seed funding under the SRI scheme. Two such applications were received, neither was funded.