



Australian Government
Department of Defence
Estate and Infrastructure Group

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Secretary
Senate Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Lyn Beverly,

I write to correct evidence that I gave at the hearing for Additional Estimates held on 20 February 2019.

I stated that:

On page 71: **Senator KITCHING:** That is very interesting, Senator Fawcett. Who has been given an Australian Research Council grant so far?
Mr Birrer: That is a question that is best referred to the department of industry. That's where the Australian Research Council portfolio sits. Defence provided support, including, as Steve Grzeskowiak mentioned, transferring funding to support that program. But the actual program is administered as part of the Australian Research Council's work.

I wish to correct my evidence with the following information:

The Australian Research Council does not report to the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, and instead is an independent body which reports to the Minister for Education.

I apologise for any misunderstanding that may have arisen.

Yours sincerely

Chris Birrer
First Assistant Secretary Infrastructure

20 March 2019