

Question on notice no. 66

Portfolio question number: SQ21-000959

2021-22 Supplementary Budget Estimates

Education and Employment Committee, Education, Skills and Employment Portfolio

Senator the Hon. Kim Carr: asked the Australian Research Council on 28 October 2021—

Senator KIM CARR: At the last estimates, I also sought advice on the manner by which you were, as you said to me, providing natural justice and procedural fairness to the applicants, which you assured me you were. But, when I ask you to show me the guidelines by which that occurs, you say to me now that the ARC is currently in the process of developing the guidelines, following consultation with national security agencies, to guide the process to ensure procedural fairness for applicants. You told me you were already providing that. How is that consistent?

Prof. Thomas: The process is evolving. Certainly the process that was used did provide the opportunity for us to contact universities as the applicant and to get them to respond once the flag had been raised.

Senator KIM CARR: So have the guidelines now been finalised?

Prof. Thomas: It's an evolving process. It's not a question of having a fixed-in-stone set.

Senator KIM CARR: So the answer is no.

Prof. Thomas: We have a process that we follow, yes.

Senator KIM CARR: What do the researchers say when they ask, 'How are my grant applications going to be assessed?'

Prof. Thomas: We would say to them what we've said in discussions with you in our last appearance at estimates, Senator.

Senator KIM CARR: So when will these guidelines, this evolving process, be finished?

Prof. Thomas: That's a good question, and we're also watching UFIT in parallel to see what developments there are there to guide and make sure there is coordination.

Senator KIM CARR: What progress have you had since we last spoke on this matter?

Prof. Thomas: You'll see that one of our key staff members is on long service leave, so that's probably slowed things down a bit.

Senator KIM CARR: But you've got all these new spooks. Have you caught any spies yet?

Prof. Thomas: The main thing we protect research from is intellectual property theft.

Senator KIM CARR: Yes. And you've found breaches of that, have you?

Prof. Thomas: I would have to take that on notice.

Answer —

Please see attached answer.

Standing Committees on Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2021 - 2022

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. SQ21-000959

Senator Kim Carr on 28 October 2021, Proof Hansard page 123

ARC | Intellectual property theft

Question

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Answer

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

The ARC is not aware of any theft of intellectual property.