

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH AND AGEING PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012, 20 October 2011

Question: E11-114

OUTCOME: 1. Population Health

Topic: BREAKDOWN OF FUNDING SCHEMES

Hansard Page: CA 12

Senator Fierravanti-Wells asked:

How many of those applications were not successful? In other words, could you provide for me information about the applications that were not successful and the total value of the applications that were rejected to get a picture of what has been put forward?

Professor Anderson:

The bottom third are regarded by our peer review panels as sometimes quite good, but they would not recommend funding them that year. Again, we can give you precise figures.

Answer:

The NHMRC Project Grants scheme constitutes approximately half of all Medical Research Endowment Account expenditure, and has a scoring system that enables the distinction to be made between fundable applications, those that were deemed fundable but were unable to be funded, and those that were deemed to be not fundable.

The dot points below provide data from the 2011 NHMRC Project Grant application round regarding the number of funded, “fundable but not funded” and “not fundable” grant applications.

The Project Grant peer review process allocates grants into one of two basic categories – “fundable” and “not fundable”. All applications in a “fundable” category are deemed as worthy of support, and are ranked in order according to the scores allocated by the peer reviewers. As the funding allocated to the Project Grant scheme inevitably falls short of supporting all applications in this category, applications in the “fundable” category are further split into those that received funding, and those that were deemed “fundable” but were unable to be funded (due to the availability of funds).

Details for all Project Grant applications and those that were funded:

- Total number of applications received = 3,368
- Total value of budgets requested on all applications = \$2,137,851,530
- Number of funded applications = 768
- Total value of funded applications = \$453,099,064
- Success rate = 768 funded grant /3,368 applications = 22.8%

Details for those grants deemed as “fundable” but unable to be funded:

- Number of applications rated as “fundable” but unable to be funded = 1,757
- Total value of budget requests from applications rated as "fundable" but unable to be funded = \$1,125,968,314

Details for those grants deemed as “not fundable”:

- Number of applications rated as “ not fundable” = 843
- Total value of budget requests from applications rated as " not fundable" = \$477,632,103