

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 16, 21 October 2015

Ref No: SQ15-000805

OUTCOME: 1 - Population Health

Topic: Streamlining NHMRC Grant Application Processes

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Xenophon, Nick

Question:

What is the NHMRC doing to reduce internal red tape and administrative costs associated with grant application assessments?

Answer:

Actions taken to date by the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) include:

- simplifying grant applications by reducing the number of fields in NHMRC Research Grants Management System that Project Grant applicants need to complete by nearly half (48 per cent);
- removing the least competitive Project Grant applications prior to peer review panel meetings (early triage);
- introducing efficiencies through electronic signatures and greater flexibility for Administering Institutions to manage grants;
- reducing the annual reporting obligations of researchers; and
- streamlining the acceptance process by allowing online acceptances of grant offers.