

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Legislation Committee
Answers to questions on notice
Environment portfolio

Question No: 69
Hearing: Additional Estimates
Outcome: Outcome 1
Programme: Environment Quality Division (EQD)
Topic: OSGG Summer Scholarship Award
Hansard Page: N/A
Question Date: 23 February 2015
Question Type: Written

Senator Urquhart asked:

1. I note from the list of grants for the portfolio that there was a 'one-off/ad hoc' grant for an OSGG Summer Scholarship awarded, to the value of \$3,800 ex GST. Can you advise what this is, and how it is awarded?
2. It says it is one-off or ad-hoc, does this mean it hasn't been done before?

Answer:

1. The Ozone Summer Scholarship encourages late year university students to focus postgraduate studies on ozone and climate related research which in turn supports Australia's participation in the Montreal Protocol on substances that deplete the ozone layer.

The Department worked with the Australian Research Council (ARC) Centre of Excellence in Climate Systems Science (the Centre) to provide an additional ozone related scholarship opportunity in addition to the Centre's normal summer scholarship programme. Applications were assessed by a selection committee within the Centre based on academic merit, quality of the application, and potential for undertaking future graduate studies in climate science. The Centre provided a recommendation to the Department for approval before awarding the scholarship. The Department accepted the recommendation.

2. The OSGG Summer Scholarship is considered a one-off or ad hoc grant as it was an activity undertaken for the first time and on a trial basis. The outcome of the Scholarship will be evaluated to determine its success and whether it will be offered in future.