

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

QUESTION ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000155

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

ARC - actual or potential research integrity breaches or research misconduct since 2007

Question

Please provide:

- (a) the number of notifications by calendar year of notified, or identified, matters relating to actual or potential research integrity breaches or research misconduct since 2007
- (b) the number by calendar year of actual or potential research integrity breaches or research misconduct identified by institutions since 2007
- (c) the number by calendar year of actual or potential research integrity breaches or research misconduct identified by members of the public to the ARC since 2007
- (d) the number by calendar year of actual or potential research integrity breaches or research misconduct identified by through ARC business since 2007

Answer

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

Table 1 shows the data on notifications of potential and actual research integrity breaches received by the ARC (by source of notification) in the period since the release of the *ARC Research Integrity and Research Misconduct Policy* in April 2015.

Table 1: Notifications of potential or actual research integrity breaches received by the ARC, April 2015 to March 2017.

Source of Notification	2015 (from April 2015)	2016	2017 (as at 16 March 2017)
Member of Public	8	9	3
ARC Business e.g. peer review	7	12	2
Institution	9	8	1
Total	24	29	6

The policy has strengthened the ARC's ability to monitor and, where appropriate, take action on research integrity and research misconduct matters related to ARC-funded researchers and those engaged in ARC business. The policy outlines requirements for institutions to report to the ARC on research integrity and research misconduct matters; as well as pathways for members of the public to report allegations of research integrity breaches or research misconduct via the ARC.

Prior to April 2015 complaints about potential research integrity breaches or research misconduct were generally handled by through the ARC complaints handling process and sometimes through post award processes if the matter related to a breach of an ARC funding agreement.

Data on research integrity and research misconduct matters for the period from 2007 to April 2015 are not easily distinguishable from data related to other complaints and breaches of ARC funding agreements, and would not be comparable to data available after April 2015.