

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000181

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

ARC - Engagement and impact assessment trial

Question

How does the engagement and impact assessment trial differ from the UK's Research Excellence Framework and the EU's Horizon 2020?

Answer

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

There are a number of key differences between the methodology being tested for engagement and impact assessment pilot and the UK's Research Excellence Framework (REF) including:

- The pilot will be testing a range of quantitative indicators of research engagement whereas the REF did not.
- The pilot will be testing a much smaller number of impact studies as part of the impact assessment than the REF—this is designed to minimise burden on universities.
- The pilot will test a methodology that has a greater focus on the approaches taken by universities to help translate associated research into impacts than what was used as part of the methodology for the REF.

The ARC has followed the REF process closely and engaged with a range of stakeholders involved to identify key lessons that would assist in the development of the engagement and impact pilot.

The EU's Horizon 2020 is a research and innovation funding programme. The engagement and impact pilot aims to develop suitable methodologies for the development of an assessment of the engagement and impact of Australian university research. The two have significantly different objectives.