

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Australian Research Council (ARC)

Department of Education Question No. ED0001_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

ARC special research initiative

How many special research initiatives have been undertaken since the inception of the Australian Research Council? Please list every special research initiative, amount of funding, source of funding and duration of the initiative How many eligible organisations have there, or are there, for each special research initiative undertaken by the Australian Research Council since its inception?

Answer

The Australian Research Council has provided the following response.

There have been 14 Special Research Initiatives administered by the Australian Research Council (ARC) between 2005 and 2014. The details for each of these Initiatives are provided below as requested.

All the Initiatives listed below have been funded from re-directions of the ARC's National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP) Budget. The only exception was for the Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology Initiative, for which the Australian Government provided \$50 million of new funding over four years, which was approved by the then Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research the Hon. Kim Carr. An additional \$9.9 million for this Initiative was provided in 2014—sourced from a re-direction of ARC's NCGP budget.

Initiatives for funding in 2014

- Tropical Health and Medicine
Commonwealth funding is \$42 million over a period of four years.
Number of eligible organisations: 1.
- Type 1 Juvenile Diabetes
Commonwealth funding is \$35 million over a period of five years.
Number of eligible organisations: 1.
- Antarctic Gateway (Note: This is a new Initiative to commence later in 2014).
Commonwealth funding is \$24 million over a period of three years.
Number of eligible organisations: 1.

Initiatives for funding in 2012

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network
Commonwealth funding is \$3.2 million over a period of four years.
Number of eligible organisations: 42.
- Science of Learning Research Centre
Commonwealth funding is \$16 million over a period of four years.
Number of eligible organisations: 43.
- Synchrotron Science
Commonwealth funding administered by ARC is \$30 million over four years
(includes \$5 million from the NHMRC).
Number of eligible organisations: 42.

Initiatives for funding in 2011

- Stem Cell Science
Commonwealth funding is \$21 million over a period of seven years.
Number of eligible organisations: 42.

Initiatives for funding in 2010

- Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology
Commonwealth funding is \$59.9 million over a period of five years.
Number of eligible organisations: 42.

Initiatives for funding in 2009

- European Molecular Biology Laboratory
Commonwealth funding is \$2.5 million over a period of five years.
Number of eligible organisations: 42.
- National Centre for Groundwater Research and Training
Commonwealth funding administered by ARC is \$29.5 million over a period of five years (which includes \$14.5 million from the National Water Commission).
Number of eligible organisations: 41.

Initiatives for funding in 2006:

- ARC Centre of Excellence in Policing and Security
Commonwealth funding is \$11 million over a period of five years.
Number of eligible organisations: 42.
- Anglo-Australian Observatory Fellowship
Commonwealth funding is \$387,904 over a period of six years.
Number of eligible organisations: 1.
- Thinking Systems
Commonwealth funding is \$10 million over a period of six years.
Number of eligible organisations: 42 Higher Education Institutions plus museums and herbaria and NHMRC registered organisations.

- Australian and New Zealand Council for the Care of Animals in Research and Teaching (ANZCCART)
Commonwealth funding is \$390,000 over a period of six years.
Number of eligible organisations: 1.

Initiatives for funding in 2005:

- ARC Centre of Excellence in Creative Industries and Innovation
Commonwealth funding is \$12,495,542 over a period of nine years.
Number of eligible organisations: 1.

Initiatives for funding between 2001 and 2005:

Between 2001 and 2005 there were a further 192 Special Research Initiatives administered by the ARC all of which had 42 Eligible Organisations. Given the number of Initiatives funded, to attempt to provide this level of detail would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.