

**Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education**

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

**Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research & International**

**Department of Education Question No. ED0095\_15**

**Senator Carr provided in writing.**

**Question**

***Commonwealth research infrastructure funding***

In relation to Commonwealth research infrastructure funding provided to Australian universities and research agencies, which is allocated in proportion to an institution's share of funding from Commonwealth competitive grants such as from the NHMRC and the ARC: a. Has the Department made any recommendations to Government on expanding eligibility for Commonwealth research infrastructure funding to overseas grants (such as grants for large-scale clinical trials) from international research institutes? b. Is the Department aware of concerns that the lack of available Commonwealth research infrastructure funding for overseas grants creates a disincentive for Australian clinical researchers to apply for such grants? And if so, how are these concerns being addressed? c. What is the policy rationale for excluding grants from highly prestigious international funding agencies from the Commonwealth scientific research infrastructure funding pool?

**Answer**

- a. No.
- b. No, however the department remains open to feedback from the research community on this matter.
- c. Australian Government funding for the indirect costs of research is intended to support the research activity of Australian universities. All other research institutions are expected to fund the indirect cost of research they wish to undertake in Australia.