

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. ED0197_15

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Grant application process

1. What has the ARC done to decrease the burden of the grant application process and other burdens on researchers and on universities and other research bodies?
2. What has been done to provide for longer grant periods?
3. What is the ARC doing to promote linkage between industry and universities in research?

Answer

The Australian Research Council has provided the following response.

1. To decrease the burden of the grant application process the Australian Research Council (ARC) has:
 - consolidated the Discovery Program funding rules into a single document;
 - extended the duration of Discovery Projects grants to up to five years;
 - introduced a new process for the collection of end-of-year financial reporting information;
 - reviewed the format and content of application forms as input to upgrading and enhancing ARC ICT systems;
 - continued to work closely with the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) to ensure, where possible, a consistent approach is undertaken between the two agencies.

The ARC is also working with the Department of Education to investigate options for the development of a single higher education research data collection.

2. The ARC has re-introduced grants of up to five years in duration under the Discovery Projects scheme for funding commencing in 2015. Previously Discovery Projects grants were up to three years in duration.
3. The ARC Linkage Program encourages university researchers to partner with researchers from other organisations, including industry. The Linkage Program comprises a number of funding schemes which support cooperative R&D projects, infrastructure, research centres and hubs.