

**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. ED0343\_15**

**Senator Carr asked on 5 June 2014 , Hansard page 6**

**Question**

**Special research initiatives**

Senator KIM CARR: Since 2008, how many special research initiatives have been embarked upon? Prof. Byrne: Goodness me, I would guess it is in the order of five, but we can find you that number out exactly. Senator KIM CARR: Of any of those initiatives, was there funding allocated for those special initiatives? Prof. Byrne: I am fairly certain that some were, yes. Senator KIM CARR: Which ones were not? Prof. Byrne: Off the top of my head, I couldn't tell you. But we can certainly tell you that. .... Senator KIM CARR: Thank you. How much of the SRIs in the past was spent on capital works rather than research and equipment? Prof. Byrne: We can take it on notice if you want some detail, but, in general, relatively small amounts get spent on capital works, per se. But our money does get used to support research infrastructure. Indeed, we have specific funds for supporting research infrastructure.

**Answer**

The Australian Research Council has provided the following response.

Since 2008 there have been nine Special Research Initiatives administered by the Australian Research Council (ARC) that have had proposals approved for funding.

With the exception of the SRI for Research in Bionic Vision Science and Technology which received \$50 million of new Government funding in 2010-2013, all other SRIs were funded from within existing ARC resources.

There have been no Special Research Initiatives that have involved significant funding for capital works prior to 2014.