

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1

Output Group: ARC

DEST Question No. E819_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

- (a) Under the Federation Fellowships, the success rate last year was 24.7%. How did that compare with the initial year of the program? Wasn't the success rate in the first year 9.3%? (Annual Report p.175)
- (b) What are the factors that make the success rate under Federation Fellowships higher than that for the other fellowships?
- (c) Wouldn't you expect such a highly prestigious program to have a very low success rate?

Answer:

Success rates under Federation Fellowships

The ARC has provided the following response:

- (a) The success rate for applications for Federation Fellowships commencing in 2002 was 9.3%. For applications for Fellowships commencing in 2003 the success rate was 24.7%.
- (b) & (c) For Federation Fellowships commencing in 2002, there were 268 applications, with 26 awarded and one declined. For Fellowships commencing in 2003, there were 97 applications, with 24 awarded and one declined. For Fellowships to commence in 2004, there were 143 applications.

Under programs in which the number of awards is relatively few, success rates are more sensitive to changes in the number of applications – hence changes in success rates from year to year are likely to be more volatile for these programs.

There are potentially many factors that could contribute to the number of applications for Federation Fellowships and the relative importance of these could change from year to year. Since the ARC has limited and imprecise information about these, it is difficult to predict with any confidence the number of applications that might be expected in any given year.