



THE SENATE

## FOREIGN AFFAIRS, DEFENCE AND TRADE REFERENCES COMMITTEE

### Inquiry into Funding for public research into foreign policy issues Questions on notice for the Australian Research Council

PAGE 23

**Ms Emery:** We have also been working with the University Foreign Interference Taskforce, which the Group of Eight has already been referencing. They are also looking, in terms of the refresh of the guidelines, to counter foreign interference in the Australian higher education sector. They're looking at the issue around due diligence, so we will continue to look at those questions in light of feedback that we get from applicants, but also in conjunction with our national security agencies.

**CHAIR:** On notice, are you able to provide any of it deidentified?

**Ms Emery:** I'm not sure that we'd have it together, but we can certainly take it on notice and we'll let you know if we have anything we can provide.

#### **Australian Research Council (ARC) response:**

The ARC received a range of queries concerning the scope of the questions, such as:

- The application of the questions to researchers based overseas, including the need to provide information about funding from an overseas source or their salary
- The need to include information on funding subject to confidentiality requirements
- How to include funding from the European Union
- What type of funding is included in 'foreign financial support'
- The scope of the question relating to association or affiliation with a 'foreign sponsored talent recruitment program' including the requirement to provide information for 10 years and regardless of whether a position was accepted
- What information can be provided by the research office to the lead chief investigator on the project in relation to another researcher
- What is meant by 'foreign government'
- The scope of the question about belonging to a foreign political party
- The application of the question relating to declaration of conflicts of interests where the researcher had no conflicts to declare
- The clarity of the help text provided in the 2021 questions
- Whether it is possible to exclude financial support received from particular countries.



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**Inquiry into Funding for public research into foreign policy issues  
Written question on notice for the Australian Research Council**

### **Written question on notice from Senator Kitching**

- How prevalent are Ministerial vetoes of ARC grant decisions? Has this changed over time?  
Does the ARC view such vetoes as disruptive to its processes?

### **Australian Research Council (ARC) response:**

In accordance with the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act), funding decisions in relation to ARC grants are at the discretion of the Minister.

Under the ARC Act, the Minister may (but is not required to) rely solely on recommendations made by the ARC Chief Executive Officer.