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Committee Secretary  
Senate Education and Employment Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

**Australian Research Council (ARC) Amendment (Ensuring Research Independence)  
Bill 2018 - Submission Invitation from Flinders University**

I write further to your email to Flinders University's Vice-Chancellor, Professor Colin Stirling, inviting a submission in relation to the ARC Amendment (Ensuring Research Independence) Bill 2018.

Flinders University is an internationally respected, globally connected and locally engaged institution that exemplifies teaching, learning and excellence in both fundamental and applied research. Flinders University is ranked by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 in the top 300 Universities in the world. Flinders University is one of the nation's fastest growing research institutions with a proud history of attracting ARC funding, contributing to the ARC's rigorous peer review processes, and delivering outstanding research outcomes to the benefit of Australia.

Flinders University supports the ARC as the nation's peak non-medical research funding body and as the key vehicle to support innovations and collaborations in research across all non-medical disciplines. Presently, the ARC balances supporting fundamental through to applied research via investment in specific programs within the Discovery and Linkage Programs with funding rules and selection criteria tailored to ensure that the highest quality research is supported.

While significant levels of research funding are provided by the Australian Government through the ARC funding schemes, there are many more high-quality applications submitted to these programs than there is funding available to support them. We hold the very strong view that a rigorous and transparent peer review process conducted by discipline experts is the best way to determine which projects should be funded to drive the long-term benefits that stem from the discovery and translation of new knowledge across research disciplines.

We believe that the intent of the ARC Amendment Bill 2018 is to ensure that transparent, rigorous, expert peer review is used to select the highest quality research to be funded by

the ARC across all discipline areas of research strength spanning basic to applied research. Consequently, Flinders University strongly supports the proposed Bill.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Robert Saint AM  
Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research)