



Australian Government

Australian Government response to the
*House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Employment, Education and Training* report:

*Australian Government Arrangements for non-NHMRC
Funding for Research*

May 2024

Overview

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Education and Training has made 15 recommendations in their report *Australian Government Arrangements for non-NHMRC Funding for Research*. This report responds to the inquiry into the efficiency, effectiveness, and coherency of Australian Government funding for research, referred by the former Minister for Education and Training, Senator the Hon Simon Birmingham on 19 May 2018.

The Australian Government notes that a large amount of work in relation to many of the recommendations is already underway. Other recommendations are under active consideration and development. This work, along with the recently completed Australian Universities Accord process which examined many of the matters covered in this inquiry, reflects the Australian Government's ongoing consultation with the higher education research sector and the importance it places on this part of the higher education system.

Over the four years from 2023-24 to 2026-27, a total of around \$16.0 billion will be provided through the Education portfolio to support Australia's research capacity and higher education research sector, including funding for research block grants, national research infrastructure, university research commercialisation measures, and the Australian Research Council's (ARC) National Competitive Grants Program (NCGP).

Australia's research sector is strong, diverse, and known for its capacity to produce world-standard research. Our excellent researchers help to build the reputations of our higher education institutions, which in turn attracts exceptional international researchers and students to our universities, with flow on effects to the entire economy.

A crucial part of a high-performance research sector is the ability for researchers to translate their work into productive outcomes for industry and society. Collaboration between researchers and industry is an important enabler to ensure Government investment in research translates into tangible societal benefits. Our researchers perform well but international comparisons of industry collaboration suggest improvements could be made.

Government Response

The Government notes **all** recommendations. However, given the passage of time since this report was tabled, a substantive Government response is no longer appropriate.