

Senate Community Affairs Committee

ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

HEALTH PORTFOLIO

Additional Estimates 2016 – 2017, 1 March 2017

Ref No: SQ17-000217

OUTCOME: 1 - Health System Policy, Design and Innovation

Topic: NHMRC Grants

Type of Question: Written Question on Notice

Senator: Griff, Stirling

Question:

- a) What proportion of grant requests did NHMRC fund last financial year? b) How has this changed over time? Please provide this data for each year from FY2010-11 to FY2015-16.
i. Please explain the reasons for variances in the data.

Answer:

- a) The following table shows the overall funded rate for competitive National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) grants since 2010 by calendar year. NHMRC reviews and awards grants on a calendar year basis.

NHMRC funded rates for Competitive Grants 2010 to 2016

Application Year	Applications	Awards	Funded Rate	Total Expenditure
2010	4798	1244	25.90%	\$727.6 million
2011	5030	1334	26.50%	\$778.4 million
2012	5249	1275	24.30%	\$826.4 million
2013	5579	1220	21.90%	\$775.2 million
2014	5572	981	17.60%	\$844.3 million
2015	5847	1030	17.60%	\$889.9 million
2016	5519	986	17.90%	\$817.6 million

- i. Funded rates have declined since 2010 and are currently 17-18 per cent. While annual funding has remained stable, funded rates have declined for a number of reasons including:
- Increase in application numbers
 - Increase in requested budgets
 - Increase in the number of funded large clinical trials and cohort studies