

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000197

Senator McKenzie, Bridget provided in writing

ARC: Deregulation and reduction of red tape

Question

What has the ARC done to reduce the burden of the grant application process and other burdens on researchers, on universities and other research bodies?

Answer

The Australian Research Council (ARC) has provided the following response.

The ARC has been streamlining its grant application and assessment processes.

The ARC re-introduced grants of up to five years in duration under the Discovery Projects scheme for funding commencing in 2015 and the Linkage Projects scheme for funding commencing in 2015.

The ARC has released one set of funding rules for each ARC Programme (excepting Centres and Special Research Initiatives). These rules detail elements common to all funding schemes under each Programme, with attachments specific to each scheme. Previously each scheme released separate funding rules.

For each programme, the ARC now has one set of funding agreements. Funding agreements and funding schedules can now also be accepted electronically, further streamlining the funding process.

In August 2014 the ARC released a new grants management system (RMS) to reduce the time taken by researchers and universities completing funding proposals. Through the design of RMS, the ARC considered ways to increase the efficiency of its grant application processes—specifically the format and content of its application forms—what information to collect and how to collect it in the most efficient manner.

The ARC has introduced a new system for collecting end-of-year financial reporting information online, and streamlined and merged the progress report by exception requirements.

In addition, the ARC has explored options to develop a single higher education research data collection in consultation with the Department of Education and Training.