

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

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

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ16-000345

Senator Ludwig, Joe provided in writing

ARC: Grants

Question

Since the change of Prime Minister on 14 September, 2015:

1. What guidelines are in place to administer grants?
2. How are grants applied for?
3. Are there any restrictions on who can apply for a grant? If yes, please detail.
(a) Can these restrictions be waved? If yes, please detail the process for waving them and list any grants where the restrictions were waved.
4. What is the procedure for selecting who will be awarded a grant?
5. Who is involved in this selection process?
6. Does the minister or the minister's office play any role in awarding grants? If yes, please detail.
(a) Has the minister or the minister's office exercised or attempted to exercise any influence over the awarding of any grants? If yes, please detail.
7. Provide a list of all grants, including ad hoc, one-off discretionary grants awarded to date. Provide the recipients, amount, intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those locations.
8. Update the status of each grant that was approved prior to the specified period, but did not have financial contracts in place at that time. Provide details of the recipients, the amount, the intended use of the grants, what locations have benefited from the grants and the electorate and state of those grants.

Answer

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

1. The ARC publish Funding Rules for every scheme round on its website.
2. Applications must be submitted electronically via the Research Management System through eligible organisations as detailed in Funding Rules.
3. Yes, only eligible organisations (usually Australian Higher education institutions) can apply for ARC funding
 - a. No
4. Successful grants are selected through a competitive peer review process. Each proposal is considered by members of the ARC College of Experts or Selection Advisory Committees. All College members are experts of international standing drawn from the Australian research community: from higher education, industry and public sector research organisations. Their recommendations are informed by detailed assessments undertaken by Australian and international peer reviewers.

5. The ARC College of Experts or Selection Advisory Committees and external peer reviewers
6. Yes. Under the ARC Act the Minister must approve the proposals awarded funding.
 - a. No
7. The NCGP Project and Fellowship Collection contains details of projects and fellowships approved for funding by the Minister under the NCGP (available on the ARC website www.arc.gov.au/contracts).
8. The ARC have all Funding Agreements in place prior to grant commencement.