

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment - Education

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015

Agency - Australian Research Council (ARC)

Department of Education Question No. ED0005_15

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question

ARC gender equity

1. What activities does the ARC undertake in measuring gender equity in the awarding of grants? 2. Are there any schemes or activities aimed at boosting gender equity in the ARC College of Experts? 3. What is the gender breakdown of: (a) ARC College of Experts panels across the individual disciplines (b) assessors across individual disciplines?

Answer

The Australian Research Council has provided the following response:

1. The ARC does not measure gender equity in the awarding of grants but funding rules include a range of provisions to promote gender equity. Researchers listed in proposals are assessed on the basis of their **Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence (ROPE)**, and other scheme dependent criteria.

2. Yes, The annual call for nominations for new ARC College Members includes a statement indicating that the ARC strongly encourages nominations from women.

3(a). The gender breakdown:

Discipline group	Male	Female
Biological Sciences and Biotechnology	27	9
Engineering, Mathematics and Informatics	35	6
Humanities and Creative Arts	12	11
Physics, Chemistry and Earth Sciences	24	6
Social, Behavioural and Economic Sciences	16	12
Total	114	44

3(b). There are currently 18,126 active Assessors registered in the ARC database, of which 12,952 are male, 5,048 are female, and 126 have not specified their sex. Assessors often have multidisciplinary expertise and cannot be grouped by individual disciplines.