

**Senate Committee: Education and Employment**

**QUESTION ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

**Outcome: Agency: ARC**

**Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ17-000717**

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing.

***ARC: Grant applications***

**Question**

The NHMRC has made grant changes in part to restrict the number of grants a researcher may apply for, and to address implicit bias:

- (a) Are researchers writing multiple grant applications to the ARC?
- (b) What is your assessment of the impact of implicit biases on assessment of grant applications against younger researchers, female or researchers from backgrounds other than English?

**Answer**

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

- a) The researcher decides what they wish to apply for but noting that there are limits for applications specified in the Discovery Program and Linkage Program Funding Rules.
- b) The ARC has put in place a number of measures to address the potential of implicit biases to impact on assessments including: (i) use of the Research Opportunity and Performance Evidence selection criterion which requires assessors to look at a researcher's performance in the context of the opportunities available to them, and (ii) provision of information to all assessors to raise awareness of the issues of implicit bias; and (iii) having members on Selection Advisory Committees from a range of backgrounds.