

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research and International

Department of Education Question No. ED0009_14
Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question Research and Strategic Engagement

What are the roles and responsibilities of the Research and Strategic Engagement branch in the Department of Education? What programs is the Research and Strategic Engagement branch in the Department of Education responsible for? How many FTE position are allocated to the Research and Strategic Engagement branch? Has this changed since 7 September 2013? As at 18 September 2013 when the new Government was sworn in, provide a breakdown of actual headcounts, and provide the number of staff on non-ongoing employment arrangements. Also please provide an up to date organisational structure for this branch.

Answer

The Research and Strategic Engagement Branch is responsible for managing the following programmes and activities:

- Research Infrastructure Block Grants (RIBG)
- Research Training Scheme (RTS)
- Joint Research Engagement (JRE)
- JRE Engineering Cadetships
- Australian Postgraduate Awards (APA)
- International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS)
- Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE)
- Collaborative Research Networks (CRN)
- ANU strategic relationship including
 - Australian National Institute of Public Policy (ANIPP) and its review
 - National Security College (NSC)
 - Australian Centre on China in the World (CIW).
 - ANU Council membership and annual report
- Higher Education Superannuation Program (HESP)
- Student Services and Amenities Fee
- Student Amenities-Higher Education Loan Program (SA-HELP)
- Support for the Learned Academies through the Higher Education Research Promotion programme
- the Higher Education Research Data Collection (HERDC) and the Australian Competitive Grants Register (ACGR)
- monitoring and assessing the financial viability of universities
- international engagement including through the OECD and other key international organisations
- profiles of universities and university groupings

- university-based research and research training policy, including policy and performance of the research block grants and review of research training arrangements
- approaches to research impact assessment
- research aspects of
 - mission-based compacts
 - annual Institutional Performance Portfolio (including collection and data analysis)
 - the MyUniversity website.

FTE Allocation

As at 18 September, the Research functions to move from the Department of Industry to the Department of Education had yet to be agreed.

Higher Education Research Group Employment Arrangements

All staff in the Higher Education Research Group is ongoing

Research and Strategic Engagement Branch organisational structure

Research and Strategic Engagement Branch consists of 5 sections:

1. Financial Analysis and Superannuation,
2. Strategic Engagement and Communication,
3. Research Policy,
4. Research Funding and Data, and
5. Collaborative Networks.