

Senate Committee: Education and Employment

**QUESTION ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

Outcome: Agency: ARC

Department of Education and Training Question No. SQ15-000901

Senator Carr, Kim provided in writing

ARC - Early career research training

Question

In regards to early career research training:

- (a) What is the typical length of an ARC grant in the latest grant rounds?
- (b) is the ARC aware of data that reports that over 8 in ten of staff classified as 'research only' in universities are employed on a limited basis or casual basis?
- (c) Does the ARC have any information on how many research only staff are employed on contracts of 12 months or less duration?
- (d) Does the ARC have concerns or any other issues with the short tenure of research only staff contracts and its implications for early career research careers?

Answer

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

- (a) Three years full time (with part-time provisions in the Funding Agreement which can extend the duration of the award up to six years, if applicable).
- (b-d) Employment with a higher education institution is not mandatory for Discovery Early Career Researcher Awards (DECRA) applicants, but it is worth noting that the ARC provides a salary component for successful candidates for the entire duration of the award. The ARC does not have data on existing academic workforce arrangements.