

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

TOPIC: Discovery Program

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 26 February 2009, E133-E134)

QUESTION No.: AI-66

Senator ABETZ—...You look after discovery grants?

Ms Harvey—Mr Marsden would be able to answer that.

Senator ABETZ—What date were the funding rules, application forms for discovery project programs released?

Mr Marsden—It would have been the first week in December.

Senator ABETZ—That is good enough. If you can supply on notice the exact date. So that is both the rules and the application forms?

Mr Marsden—I think the application form was probably a week later, but I will take that on notice. It was not at the same time as the rules.

Senator ABETZ—Nothing revolves around it, other than just general interest for me, so thanks for that. When was the closing date for submissions?

Mr Marsden—For the current round?

Senator ABETZ—Yes.

Mr Marsden—It has not closed quite yet.

Senator ABETZ—All right, when is the closing date?

Ms Harvey—I believe it is 4 March.

Mr Marsden—That is correct.

Senator ABETZ—Is this a new concept, these discovery grants?

Mr Marsden—No, they have been around for quite some years.

Senator ABETZ—They have been around for some years. Is the time period between that first week in December and 4 March a shorter period of time than usual?

Mr Marsden—Yes. We normally aim to go out and open up about the end of November, so it is marginally shorter.

Senator ABETZ—By how much?

Mr Marsden—I would have to check the date from the last round of discovery, but I would say probably—

Senator ABETZ—There have been previous rounds before that as well?

Mr Marsden—Yes, that is correct.

Senator ABETZ—It has been put to me that, this time, the period in which you can make submissions is substantially shorter, and that has caused some inconvenience, but take it on notice and let us know. If it is a matter of two weeks, I will get back to the people that have told me that. Minister, when did you sign off on the DP funding rules?

Senator Carr—I will have to take check on the date.

Mr Marsden—I will have to take that on notice

ANSWER

Table 1 provides the dates for the funding rules and application form for the *Discovery Projects* scheme for scheme rounds from 2007 to 2010.

Table 1: *Discovery Projects* scheme dates for scheme rounds from 2007 to 2010.

	DP07	DP08	DP09	DP10
Funding rules released	09/12/05	22/11/06 ¹	12/11/07	04/12/08
Rich Text Format application form released	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	22/12/08 ²
Online application form released	15/12/05	22/11/06 ¹	28/11/07	06/01/09
Application form closed	03/03/06	02/03/07	07/03/08	04/03/09

¹ Information based on the ARC Research Network Message sent to the research sector on 22 November 2006.

² To provide further guidance and assistance to potential applicants for *Discovery Projects* for funding commencing in 2010, a Rich Text Format application form was released on 22 December 2008. This application form allowed researchers to commence drafting their proposals.

The Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, Senator the Hon. Kim Carr, approved the *Discovery Project Funding Rules for funding commencing in 2010* on 1 December 2008.