

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13  
13 February 2013

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

**TOPIC:** Future Fellowships Program

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 64)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-27

**Senator RHIANNON:** What is your involvement with the Future Fellowships program?

**Ms Baly:** The Future Fellowships program is a program of the Australian Research Council.

**Senator RHIANNON:** I understand that it has been wound up.

**Ms Baly:** It is a terminating program, as I understand it. I think Professor Byrne might have answered some questions on that this morning. It is a terminating program from, I think, the middle of this year.

**Ms Kelly:** But the government has made no decision one way or the other on the future of that program at the moment.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Has the department recommended that the program should continue?

**Ms Kelly:** I do not think I can comment on the advice that the department might give to the minister about budget issues.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Do you judge that it is a useful program?

**Ms Kelly:** Yes, it has been a useful program, particularly in attracting high-quality Australians back to Australia to take up research appointments.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Do you expect that this trend of attracting high-quality researchers back to Australia will continue?

**Ms Kelly:** We certainly hope so. I think the additional investment in research over recent years has meant that there are more opportunities for high-quality researchers. The Future Fellowships program clearly helps that process, but I think it is not the only thing that attracts them.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Has any quantitative or qualitative work been done to judge how this trend can be maintained after the Future Fellowships program?

**Ms Baly:** I understand an evaluation of that program is due this year.

**Senator RHIANNON:** When will that be released and will it be released publicly?

**Ms Baly:** I cannot give you the exact timing of that. The ARC would know the answers to those questions.

**Senator RHIANNON:** Could that be taken a notice.

**Ms Baly:** We can take that on notice on behalf of the ARC, certainly.

## **ANSWER**

The ARC is finalising the evaluation process and a summary of the outcomes will be publicly available on our website around mid-year.