

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)

TOPIC: Australian Research Council – Absenteeism

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Mason

QUESTION No.: AI-79

In the Australian Public Service Commission's State of the Service Report 2011-12, the Australian Research Council is identified as being one of the top five worst-performing agencies in the Australian Public service with respect to unscheduled absences. While the median Australian Public Service sick leave rate in 2011-12 was 8.5 days and the median absence was 11.1 days, the Australian Research Council sick leave rate was 14.3 days and the median absence rate was 17.8 days.

- a) What is the explanation for these rates?
- b) Are absences of this magnitude having a negative impact on the Australian Research Council's performance and productivity?
- c) What steps has the Australian Research Council taken to improve these rates?

ANSWER

- a) Two staff have suffered from chronic, non-compensable illnesses, and a further staff member is on a graduated return to work from a compensable condition.
- b) No.
- c) Not applicable.