

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
2-3 June 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

TOPIC: Promotion of Grantees Work

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Fielding

QUESTION No. BI-116

If grantees have this right or are so encouraged, does this reflect Australian Government policy support for the relevant research or grantees' interpretation of findings?

ANSWER

The Australian Research Council (ARC) expects to be acknowledged for providing financial support for a project, but ARC funding does not constitute endorsement of research findings nor does it reflect Australian Government policy support for the relevant research or grantees' interpretation of findings.

The ARC administers funding to research projects based on the advice of highly regarded expert committees that inform the Chief Executive Officer in providing recommendations to the Minister. The assessment process relates to research proposals, not research outcomes. It is not possible to measure the quality of actual research before the research has been conducted.

The ARC expects researchers who receive ARC funding to publish their findings in peer-reviewed journals and other forums to stimulate discussion and debate, and looks to this second stage of the research process in evaluating the quality of the research it funds and assessing its ongoing national benefit.