

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10
01 June 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

TOPIC: ERA STAFF FIGURES

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 1 June 2009, E43)

QUESTION No.: BI-53

Senator ABETZ—That was four staff. In fairness, I think that makes your point in relation to how we have come to that figure and I accept that, so thank you for that. I now move onto the Excellence in Research in Australia initiative. How many people in the ARC are working on developing the ERA? Do you have that figure off the top of your head?

Ms Harvey—We would have to take the exact numbers on notice, Senator.

Senator ABETZ—Alright, just roughly?

Ms Harvey—We have a number of public servants on staff who are doing it. We have a number of non ongoing staff that are assisting and we have a number of contractors. It is about 30 in the business side and approximately 20 on the IT side, so about 50 in total. But we will take the split on notice.

Senator ABETZ—Thank you very much for that. If you could also provide the APS classification and then the totals in each category, that would be appreciated.

Ms Harvey—Some of the contractors are not actually mirrored in APS classifications because of the nature—

Senator ABETZ—Yes, of course.

Ms Harvey—They will just appear as contractors.

Senator ABETZ—Thank you for that. Are we able to be provided with an itemised list of ARC spending on the ERA to date into various categories?

Ms Harvey—Yes, Senator.

Senator ABETZ—What would those categories potentially be? Is there an administration budget, an outreach budget and a checking and vetting budget? How are they categorised?

Ms Harvey—We would typically categorise it into salaries. We would be able to split the operating costs into things of an administrative nature where we have experts come in and give us some advice, including travel consultancies and into general operating expenses. Outreach that you mentioned encompasses a range of things in the ARC, not just the ERA initiative.

Senator ABETZ—Provide us with that split up that you can, thank you. It would be fair to say that the development of the ERA has impacted on the day-to-day operations of the ARC?

ANSWER

Classification	Full Time Equivalent
APS4	2.5
APS5	2.0
APS6	3.0
EL1	7.6
EL2	4.0
SES	1.0
Contractors	20.0
Grand Total	40.1

Departmental Funding	Dec 07 to June 08 \$'000	Jul 08 to April 09 \$'000	Total \$'000
Employees	1,484	1,600	3,084
Travel and Committee Costs Communication, Office Service	883	622	1505
Consultants	47	129	480
Sub Total	2,765	2,458	5,223
Corporate and IT	516	2,656	3,172
Total Spent to 30 April 09	3,281	5,114	8,395