

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
 Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
 Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
 31 May 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Consultations regarding programs

REFERENCE: Written Question–Senator Eggleston.

QUESTION No.: BI-133

On what other new (or changes to) programs has Research Division sought formal public consultation over the past two-and-a-half years?

What has been the average length of time that has been given to people for lodging their feedback?

Have any of those consultations required people to sign confidentiality agreements before receiving further information? If so, which ones?

ANSWER

The Research Division has undertaken formal public consultations on several occasions over the last two and half years, as set at below.

Item	Length of time for feedback
The <i>Sustainable Research Excellence (SRE) in Universities Issues Paper: A Model for Discussion</i> issues paper was released on Monday 27 July 2009 and submissions closed on 31 August 2009.	Five weeks
The <i>SRE Consultation Paper on Options for Threshold 2 Funding</i> was released on Friday 28 May 2010 and submissions are due by Friday 2 July.	Five weeks
Consultation was undertaken with the higher education sector in 2009 on the provisions of income data collection relating to the distribution of research block grants (known as the Higher Education Research Data Collection Review). The review took place between 18 May 2009 and 14 September 2009. Consultations were undertaken through a series of round table meetings with sector representatives between June and July 2009, and an options paper was released to the sector on 24 August 2009.	Two weeks
The Australian Competitive Grants Register (AGCR) consultation paper was circulated to the sector on 24 June 2010 with submission to be lodged by Wednesday 7 July 2010. The review will be completed by the end of July 2010.	Two weeks

<p>The International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS) program was evaluated last year, which took place between September 2009 and January 2010.</p> <p>Public consultation was invited on one occasion when <i>The International Postgraduate Research Scholarship (IPRS) Evaluation report – January 2010</i> was released on 2 March 2010. Comments were required to be submitted by Thursday 1 April 2010.</p>	<p>Four weeks</p>
<p>A discussion paper on the Collaborative Research Networks (CRN) program was released on 22 February 2010. There were also roundtable meetings with stakeholders during February and March 2010.</p>	<p>Four weeks</p>
<p>The draft CRN Guidelines were released for consultation on 3 June 2010.</p>	<p>Two weeks</p>
<p>Consultation was undertaken with the higher education sector in 2009 on mission-based compacts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o A discussion paper was released on 21 July and consultations were undertaken through a series of roundtable meetings over a month until 21 August. 	<p>Four weeks</p>
<p>The independent review of the Cooperative Research Centres Program undertaken in 2008 as part of the broader Review of the National Innovation System included wide formal and informal public consultation.</p>	<p>Five months</p>

Confidentiality agreements are not required with respect to the programs listed above as they have already been announced. They may be required for consultations around programs not yet announced.