

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

TOPIC: Research Management System (RMS)

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 21 October 2009, E21)

QUESTION No.: SI-24

Senator ABETZ—Professor Sheil, can you tell us about the new grant management system. I understand it goes under the acronym of GAMS, is that right?

Prof. Sheil—No, it is the research management system, or RMS.

Senator ABETZ—All right, I was nearly there. Now this new system was launched earlier this year—on what date was that?

Prof. Sheil—It was opened in March 2009. That was the first time it was open for a particular scheme. It was open for the Linkage Projects scheme at that time.

Senator ABETZ—And are you aware of complaints about that system?

Prof. Sheil—Yes, I am.....

Senator ABETZ—So information which might be described to be of a confidential nature did not find its way to the wrong recipients of that information or unintended recipients?

Prof. Sheil—I am not aware of that issue.

Senator ABETZ—If you could you please take that on notice and come back to us on that, as to whether anything like that or of that nature did occur, then I would be much obliged.

ANSWER

The Australian Research Council (ARC) is not aware of information of a confidential nature being sent to the wrong recipient.

However there were two occasions when information not normally accessible was accessible to university research office staff. These were:

- On 6 May 2009 information comprising the first named chief investigator and project title for *Linkage Projects* for funding commencing in 2010 was released to one external user. The user logged out and could no longer access the information. The ARC was advised of the issue by the university research office and the matter was resolved.
- Information, including the first named chief investigator, project title and assessors for each proposal for *Linkage Projects* for funding commencing in 2010 was available to university research office staff between 3 April 2009 and 8 April 2009. University research office staff could only view applications from their organisation. The ARC was advised of the issue by the university research office and the matter was resolved.

There was a further issue in May 2009 where RMS incorrectly associated a PDF file with an unrelated proposal. This issue was advised by the university research office. The university research office was advised when the matter was resolved.