

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL (ARC)

TOPIC: Grants Pause

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator McKenzie

QUESTION No.: SI-121

REF: [Researchers' warnings over funding freeze](#) (*The Australian*, 10 October 2012)

The Australian reported last week that the Australian Research Council has confirmed that all funding announcements are on hold as the Gillard government seeks budget cuts.

Proposed partnerships with industry are looking less certain and leading to instability in the Australia's research environment.

1. Why is the government delaying valuable research that could drive our productivity and improve our economy?
2. If the outcome is a withdrawal by industry from partnerships, won't the long-term damage be worse than if the research grants continued to go ahead?
3. When will universities get certainty for their research projects?

ANSWER

1. This pause has now ended and there has been no change in funding for the ARC.
2. Please see response to question one.
3. On 5 November 2012, the Science and Research Minister, Senator the Hon Chris Evans, announced new grants for funding commencing in 2013 for the *Discovery Projects*, *Discovery Indigenous*, *Discovery Early Career Researcher Award* and *Linkage Infrastructure, Equipment and Facilities* schemes. Funding was also announced for the *Special Research Initiative for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Researchers' Network* for funding commencing in 2012.