

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 1  
**Output Group:** ARC

#### **DEST Question No. E821\_04**

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Table A2.17 contains information on the success rates by field under the Research Fellowships programs. These rates differ very widely – from 4% in Political Science to 34% in Information Sciences and Computing, and 44% in Education. (Annual Report p. 197)

Shouldn't you be aiming for a bit more uniformity? What are the factors that have led to these discrepancies? How can you address this issue?

#### **Answer:**

*Success rates by field*

The ARC has provided the following response:

From year to year, the success rate of applications for ARC funding from researchers in different disciplines varies according to the quality of applications in those disciplines. The number of applications for funding in specific research fields can vary substantially from year to year. In circumstances in which the number of awards allocated is relatively few, success rates are more sensitive to changes in the number of applications – hence changes in success rates from year to year are more volatile in these circumstances.