

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 1
Output Group: ARC

DEST Question No. E1005_06

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Questions:

- How will the independence of the ARC be ensured?
- How many members of the ARC Board have already left and how many remain?
- Is the Board still able to function with fewer members?
- Has the diminishing number of Board members prevented the board from fulfilling any of its duties? If so, which duties?

Answer:

The ARC has provided the following response.

How will the independence of the ARC be ensured?

The ARC is a statutory agency. The reforms to its governance arrangements announced last year are the subject of the *Australian Research Council Amendment Bill 2006* currently before the Parliament.

How many members of the ARC Board have already left and how many remain?

Five members of the Board have resigned. The Board currently has nine members.

Is the Board still able to function with fewer members?

Yes.

Has the diminishing number of Board members prevented the board from fulfilling any of its duties? If so, which duties?

No.