

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3.1 – Research infrastructure.

#### **DEST Question No. E854\_06**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

1. When will the legislation to enact the “retirement” of the ARC Board be introduced?
2. Did the government consult with key groups or seek feedback on the “retiring” of the ARC Board before this decision was made?
3. The former Minister for Education, Science and Training stated in a media release announcing the new governance arrangement for the ARC that “*the revised arrangements will retain the ARC’s independence.*” (Enhancing Governance arrangements – Australian Research Council 15/7/05) How will the independence of the ARC be ensured?

#### **Answer:**

*Enhancing Governance arrangements – Australian Research Council*

1. The introduction of the Australian Research Council Amendment Bill is subject to the Government’s overall legislative programme.
2. In carrying out the assessment of the ARC against the governance templates outlined in the *Review of the Corporate Governance of Statutory Authorities and Office Holders* (the Uhrig Report), the then Minister for Education, Science and Training wrote to members of the ARC Board, and the following key stakeholders:

- Australian Vice-Chancellors’ Committee
- Group of Eight
- New Generation Universities
- Australian Technology Network
- Innovative Research Universities
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Business Council of Australia

The former Minister informed the Board and stakeholders in March 2005 that the Government would be implementing the recommendations of the Uhrig Report, and sought the views of stakeholders on the governance arrangements of the ARC.

In July 2005 the Minister wrote to members of the ARC Board and the aforementioned stakeholders advising them of the outcome of the assessment.

3. The ARC will continue to be a statutory authority, and a statutory agency under the *Public Service Act 1999*.