

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

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

#### **DEST Question No. E1002\_07**

Senator Carr asked on 14 February 2007, EWRE Hansard page 10.

#### **Question:**

Research Quality Framework

**Senator CARR**—I turn now to the RQF panel structure. The ARC has made some comments in the past about these matters. I wonder whether you could provide the committee with your advice. What is your position at the moment as to the proposed panel structure of the RQF?

**Mr Harper**—In the absence of our CEO, who has been more involved with that than those of us at the table, it is difficult for us to provide an answer on that. I note that the carriage of the RQF process is with DEST.

**Senator CARR**—I understand that—and, obviously, on behalf of the committee, send my best regards to Professor Hoj, given his accident last night, as you have advised me. Are you saying to me that there is no-one else here from the ARC who can deal with questions relating to the RQF, the Research Quality Framework, given the numbers of papers and positions you have released on this question?

**Senator BRANDIS**—With respect, you know the circumstances in which the chief executive is not here. He is plainly the best officer to answer those questions. In his absence, if I may say so, through you, Chair, it seems a reasonable and helpful thing for the officers at the table to take the questions on notice so that the answers can be provided by the person best placed to answer the question.

#### **Answer:**

*ARC has provided the following response:*

*Research Quality Framework*

In June 2005, the then ARC CEO, Professor Høj, was asked by the Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for the RQF, of which he was a member, to chair the EAG working group on assessment panels and the assessment of cross-disciplinary research in the RQF. This was one of four working groups established by the EAG to examine particular aspects of the RQF development and to make recommendations for consideration by the EAG. Professor Høj and Professor Alan Pettigrew, then CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council, agreed to prepare a draft panel structure, based on the experience of their respective organisations, for consideration by the working group.

The resulting paper, modified to take account of discussion among working group members and additional statistical compilation by the ARC, was subsequently released as a support paper on the ARC and DEST websites. The paper is titled *ARC Support Paper: A proposed panel structure for the RQF* (August 2005).

Subsequent consultation and development by the RQF Development Advisory Group has resulted in a proposed panel structure that built on that original proposal and, indeed, is very similar to the one originally suggested by Professors Høj and Pettigrew.