

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E998\_07**

Senator Carr asked on 14 February 2007, EWRE Hansard page 6 & 10.

#### **Question:**

Discovery Grants Program

**Senator CARR**—So you cannot tell me what the average research cost increases have been across, say, the sciences, social sciences and humanities?

**Mr Marsden**—Yes, we can. We just do not have that information with us. We will take that on notice and provide that to you.

**Senator CARR**—I see; thank you. Could you, in providing that information, also provide me with the current rate of indexation that is provided for your overall grants program?

**Mr Marsden**—Yes, of course.

**Senator CARR**—What is it at the moment? Which WCI is it?

**Mr Marsden**—It is the higher education indexation factor. I believe that is a mix of national wage case and CPI movements.

**Senator CARR**—Isn't there a particular scale? I am surprised the department of finance lets you have a special one.

**Mr Marsden**—No, it is not a special one. I cannot remember which one it is; I think it is either four or three, but I will take it on notice rather than guess the answer.

**Senator CARR**—Thank you very much. What percentage rate would that be?

**Mr Marsden**—About 1.9 per cent.

**Senator CARR**—What is the average cost of the increases in terms of the increased costs of research? How much is that running at?

**Mr Marsden**—Sorry, we will have to take that on notice as well.

**Senator CARR**—Would it be above or would it be less than 1.9?

**Mr Marsden**—It would be above.

**Senator CARR**—Do you know how much above?

**Mr Marsden**—Not accurately off the top of my head. I would like to take that on notice.

**Answer:**

ARC has provided the following response:

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the average requested funding under *Discovery Projects* by discipline grouping in the years 2003 to 2007.

**Table 1**

<b>Average requested first-year funding by approved proposal – <i>Discovery Projects</i></b>					
<b>Discipline</b>	<b><i>first year of funding</i></b>				
	<b>2003</b> <i>in \$2002</i>	<b>2004</b> <i>in \$2003</i>	<b>2005</b> <i>in \$2004</i>	<b>2006</b> <i>in \$2006 *</i>	<b>2007</b> <i>in \$2007</i>
Biological Sciences & Biotechnology	\$147,204	\$147,446	\$142,460	\$168,061	\$186,342
Engineering & Environmental Sciences	\$140,831	\$146,996	\$147,928	\$176,388	\$184,365
Humanities & Creative Arts	\$81,144	\$88,520	\$91,822	\$102,927	\$126,903
Mathematics, Information & Communication Sciences	\$132,547	\$123,588	\$135,595	\$152,332	\$155,603
Physics, Chemistry & Geoscience	\$158,734	\$156,685	\$169,491	\$191,105	\$205,436
Social, Behavioural & Economic Sciences	\$94,345	\$94,019	\$102,216	\$116,210	\$131,097
<b>All Disciplines</b>	<b>\$126,334</b>	<b>\$125,145</b>	<b>\$130,278</b>	<b>\$149,430</b>	<b>\$164,958</b>

The National Competitive Grants Program is indexed using the Higher Education Index Factor (HEIF) and previously the Cost Adjustment Factor (CAF) supplied by the Department of Finance and Administration. This index is also used by the Department of Education, Science and Training. The rate of indexation that applied to the ARC's overall grants program (including *Discovery Projects*) is provided in Table 2 below.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics R&D Implicit Price Deflators index shows the annual cost price increase for research and development in the higher education sector for 2003 and 2004 in Table 2 below.

**Table 2**

(CAF prior to 2004)	<b>2003</b>	<b>2004</b>	<b>2005</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>
HEIF	2.4%	2.3%	2.1%	1.9%	2.0%
ABS	2.4%	3.2%	n/a	n/a	n/a

\* The price basis for *Discovery Projects* proposals changed in 2006 associated with benchmarking of the nominal salaries and stipends for ARC Fellowships.