

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ARC

Output Group: 1

DEST Question No. E021_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Refers to DEST Question No E816_04

Question:

- (a) Has a draft joint statement with the NHMRC, referred to in E816_04, been prepared?
- (b) What is the progress with consultations over the draft? Have consultations taken place? With whom? What is the process?
- (c) When do you anticipate finalisation of this statement?
- (d) What is its relationship with the new BAA II program for a Quality Framework for research?

Answer:

Joint statement with NHMRC

The ARC has provided the following response.

- (a) A draft joint statement on research practice is currently being prepared by a Joint Working Group comprising representatives of the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee (AVCC), the National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).
- (b) A first round of consultations with key stakeholders in the research community was undertaken in October 2003. There will be two further rounds of community consultations on a draft joint statement before a final draft is presented to the three auspicing organisations for endorsement. In both cases, consultations will be widely publicised through print media and on the AVCC, NHMRC and ARC websites.
- (c) Given the comprehensive nature of the review, it is anticipated that the AVCC, the NHMRC and ARC will be requested to endorse the final draft joint statement in mid 2005.

The following issues are being considered for inclusion in the draft joint statement:

- general principles;
- good research governance;
- responsible practice of research;
- conflict of interest;
- supervision and training;
- authorship and publication;
- records, data storage and retention;
- commercialisation and risk reduction;
- research misconduct;
- links to other codes, legislation and guidelines; and

- monitoring and auditing.

(d) The Department of Education, Science and Training (DEST) is responsible for the Quality and Accessibility Frameworks for Publicly Funded Research. DEST is encouraged to participate in the consultations associated with the joint statement on research practice.