ASSPA allocation 2003/04

An amount of $18.184 million is allocated to ASSPA Committees for 2003/04. This compares to actual expenditure of $17.584 on ASSPA in 2002/03.

Australian Government
Australian Research Council

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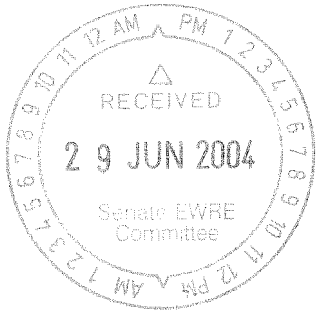
24 June 2004



Mr John Carter
The Secretary
Employment, Workplace Relations
and Education Committee
The Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter

I am writing to you to formally correct and clarify advice given by the Australian Research Council to the Committee at the Budget Estimates hearing held on 2 June 2004.

In response to a question from Senator Harradine, Mr Harper indicated that the ARC Board last considered issues relating to funding of the National Stem Cell Centre on 27 May (EWRE Hansard, page 36). This was incorrect. The ARC Board meeting considered those issues on 28 May 2004.

During the hearings, Mr Harper also agreed, in response to a question from Senator Carr, that a direction had been received by the ARC from the Minister for Education, Science and Training (EWRE Hansard, page 44). In fact, two directions have been given to the ARC by the Minister since the agency's establishment under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* (ARC Act).

In January 2002, the Minister directed the ARC to allocate at least 33 per cent of funding in the 2003 funding round to four priority areas: nano-materials and bio-materials, genome/phenome research, complex/intelligent systems, and photon science and technology. A copy of this direction is provided in the *ARC Annual Report 2001-02*.

Subsequently, in December 2002, the Minister directed the ARC to take account of the four national research priorities in performing its functions under the ARC Act, including with respect to making recommendations to the Minister for funding proposals under the National Competitive Grants Program commencing in the 2004 funding round. A copy of this direction is provided in the *ARC Annual Report 2002-03*.

Yours sincerely

Stephen Walker
Acting CEO

Australian Government
Department of Education, Science and Training

Our Ref :
Your Ref :

Mr John Carter
Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations
and Education Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter

I am writing to correct two matters in the evidence that Mr Bill Burmester, Group Manager, Higher Education Group of this Department gave to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislation Committee during the Estimates Hearings on 3 June 2004.

Mr Burmester was mistaken in his evidence to the Committee about the inclusion of information about "doubtful debt" in the *Higher Education Report for the 2004 to 2006 Triennium* (the Triennium Report). This evidence is reported on page 41 of the proof copy of the Committee Hansard. The details of doubtful debt were previously reported to the Committee in the Department's response to the Committee's Question on Notice E904_04.

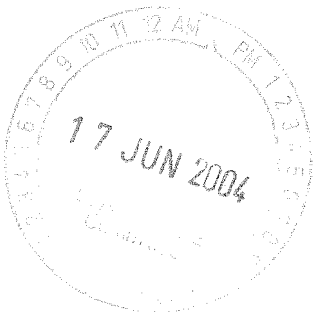
Similarly, Mr Burmester and I were mistaken in our evidence to the Committee about the inclusion of information in the Triennium Report about advance payments made to universities. This evidence is reported on page 68 of the proof copy of the Committee Hansard. Information about advance payments is not included in this year's Triennium Report as there will no advances made in 2004.

Yours sincerely

C Nicoll

Dr Carol Nicoll
A/Group Manager
Higher Education Group

15 June 2004



Australian Government

Department of Education, Science and Training

Mr John Carter
Secretary
Employment, Workplace Relations & Education Committee
Senate Room SG52
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Copies to: Ms Cross

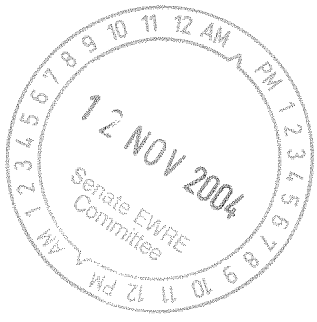
Dear Mr Carter

I wish to correct an error in my witness statement provided to the Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee on Thursday 3 June 2004.

As recorded in Hansard on page EWRE 7, and in response to Senator Marshall's question about the total number of New Apprentices registered as undertaking a Certificate III in Information Technology, I stated '... that the number of new apprentices supported directly by Broadscope with a formal registered training contract was in the order...of only 1,840 trainees...'.

The figure to which I referred was incorrect. The correct figure should have been 3,499. Of the 3,499 New Apprentices registered in the Department's Training and Youth Internet Management System records, a subset of 1,840 attracted a commencement incentive under the New Apprenticeships Incentive Programme guidelines.

Yours sincerely

Ben Johnson
Branch Manager
New Apprenticeships Branch

2 November 2004