

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** 3  
**Output Group:** 3.1 – Research Infrastructure

#### **DEST Question No. E510\_07**

Senator Wong provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Is it the case that the College of Experts can be appointed directly by the Minister? Was this the case under the existing ARC Act? Is it possible for the Minister to appoint anyone to the College of Experts?

#### **Answer:**

*Australian Research Council*

Under the previous version of the ARC Act, 'designated committees' are defined as a committee established under section 30 wholly or partly to assist in carrying out the functions of the ARC or the Board.

Under the ARC Act, designated committees are defined by sub-section 30(1). This subsection states that the Minister may establish a committee or committees to assist in carrying out the functions of the CEO. The additional provisions for 'designated committees' are also outlined in Part 4.

Under sub-section 30(1) of the previous version of the *Australian Research Council Act 2001* the Board was able to establish a committee or committees to assist in carrying out the functions of the ARC or the Board. The practical implications of the operation of sub-section 30(1) were limited by sub-section 30(4) where "the Board must not establish or dissolve a designated committee unless the Board has obtained the approval of the Minister."