

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 1 - ARC

DEST Question No. E062_08

Senator Carr asked on 30 May 2007, EWRE Hansard page 14.

Question:

Senator CARR—Thank you. Could you give me a breakdown of the ARC funded post-doctorate and other fellowship programs and awards? Do you have the figures with you?

Mr Harper—There are a number of fellowships available through the ARC, including Federation Fellowships and Australian Professorial Fellowships.

Senator CARR—Would you be able to provide the committee with that information today? I can give you a list of fellowships and outstanding commitments for the out years. Do you have that information with you?

Mr Harper—I do not have that information with me, but we can take your question on notice.

Senator CARR—The problem I have is that we asked for seven questions to be taken on notice in the last round and, of those seven, as you have said, the majority were not answered. This is not particularly difficult information; this is information that I was hoping to be able to secure as to ongoing funding commitments for Australian postdoctoral fellowships, Australian Research Fellowships, the QE2 Fellowships, the Australian Professional Fellowships and the Federation Fellowships. Are you able to provide information about that expenditure?

Mr Harper—Expenditure or commitment?

Senator CARR—The ongoing commitments of expenditure—how long would that take?

Mr Harper—We expect to be able to advise the committee of that next week.

Senator CARR—So you cannot provide that today?

Mr Harper—I am not saying that we cannot; I am trying not to mislead the committee into thinking that we could do it overly early. We will try to do it as soon as we can.

Senator CARR—On page 70 of the annual report there is a report on performance. I am seeking to know whether that information is able to be extended for the out years. Are you able to provide information on the number of researchers supported directly through ARC funded research projects in 2002-06 for the out years?

Mr Harper—Yes, we can do that but we will take it on notice.

Senator CARR—Sorry?

Mr Harper—We would be happy to provide that information but we will do it on notice.

Senator CARR—The problem is that you take so long to reply to questions you take on notice. I was hoping to be able to secure that information today.

Mr Harper—We will try to do it as quickly as we can.

Senator CARR—Can I also have the number awarded in the most recent years and the number ongoing, the length of tenure, the value of the awards and any associated research support? What I am seeking to establish is your ongoing financial commitments for postdoctoral and fellowship programs. Of the appropriated moneys, how much has been committed into the forward out years?

Mr Harper—I believe I understand what information you are after, and we will try to get that as quickly as we can for the committee.

Answer:

The ARC has provided the following response.

National Competitive Grants Program

The ARC awarded a total of 569 new fellowships and postgraduate awards under its *Discovery* and *Linkage* elements for commencement in 2007. These brought to 2343 the number of fellowships and postgraduate awards approved for ARC support in that year.

Table 1 includes data on the number of fellowships and postgraduate awards to which the ARC has made commitments from 2007 to 2012.

Table 1 shows a funding commitment of up to \$135.2 million to ARC fellowships and postgraduate awards in 2007. At 30 June 2007, in accordance with the payment schedule approved under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*, the calendar year commitment for 2007 is essentially halved.

As most of the awards are held for more than one year, the associated financial commitments now extend out to 2012. These funding commitments are shown in Table 1.

The duration and value of the ARC's fellowships and postgraduate awards vary according to the award. Except for postgraduate awards, the ARC pays to the administering organisation an amount reflecting salary and on-costs. Details are provided in Table 2. In some cases, the ARC pays a portion of these costs with the administering organisations meeting the remainder. Other allowances (such as relocation costs and thesis expenses) may be payable for fellows and award recipients on a reimbursement basis. The ARC may also provide funding for project costs associated with the awards/fellowships. These are not included in the table.

Table 1**ARC funding commitment to Awards and Fellowships announced or in progress¹**

Award/ fellowship type	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
A. Number of awards and fellowships	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)	(no.)
Postgraduate awards ²	1413	988	599	295	0	0
Fellowships ³	790	571	379	185	87	0
International fellowships ⁴	22	0	0	0	0	0
Federation Fellowships	118	118	94	69	45	20
Total awards/ fellowships	2343	1677	1072	549	132	20
B. Funding commitment⁵	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)	(\$'000)
Postgraduate awards ²	31,906.5	22,846.4	13,287.5	5,778.8	0.0	0.0
Fellowships ³	66,642.9	49,847.0	39,514.2	16,778.7	8,538.1	0.0
International fellowships ⁴	1,764.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Federation Fellowships	34,894.7	34,300.7	26,396.4	18,492.0	10,587.7	3,277.5
Total awards/ fellowships	135,208.6	106,994.1	79,198.1	41,049.5	19,125.8	3,277.5

¹ As recorded in the selection reports of the various schemes and published salary and stipend rates (see Table 2). The number of research projects and awards supported in any year, and consequently the amount of funding and its distribution over time, may change if awards are not taken up by the recipient, or are deferred or extended. Depending on the funding scheme and round involved, some positions may be supported for only part of the year. Funding shown in 2007 dollars, and calculated on the assumption that all awards are held for the maximum duration and, where relevant, at the higher of the 'steps' available. Funding beyond 2010-11 is subject to budget appropriation.

² Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry (including Australian Postgraduate Awards Industry in the fields of information technology and communications). Does not include possible six-month extensions.

³ Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships, Indigenous Researcher Fellowships, Australian Research Fellowships, Queen Elizabeth II Fellowships, Australian Professorial Fellowships, Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships Industry and Linkage Industry Fellowships. Includes a number of Australian Postdoctoral Fellowships funded at 75% over 4 years, and a number of Australian Professorial Fellowships funded at 50%. Does not include Centre Fellowships.

⁴ *Linkage International* Fellowships are funded for a maximum of one year.

⁵ In 2007 dollars. Out-year payments are subject to indexation. Figures for 2007 are full-year figures. In accordance with the payment schedule approved under the *Australian Research Council Act 2001*, the calendar year commitment for 2007 is essentially halved by 30 June 2007.

Table 2
Duration of awards/ fellowships, and salary and stipend rates¹

Award/fellowship	Duration²	Option²	Salary	On-costs	Total
Australian Postgraduate Award Industry (APAI) ³	2-3 years	n.a.	\$25,627	n.a.	\$25,627
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship (APD)	3 years	100%	\$60,195	\$16,855	\$77,049
	4 years	75%/25%	\$45,146	\$12,641	\$57,787
Australian Postdoctoral Fellowship Industry (APDI)	3 years	n.a.	\$60,195	\$16,855	\$77,049
Indigenous Researcher Fellowship (IRF)	1-2 years	n.a.	\$60,195	\$16,855	\$77,049
Australian Research Fellowship (ARF)	5 years	100%	\$75,498	\$21,140	\$96,638
	5 years	50%/50%	\$37,749	\$10,570	\$48,319
Queen Elizabeth II Fellowship (QEII)	5 years	100%	\$89,782	\$25,139	\$114,921
	5 years	50%/50%	\$44,891	\$12,570	\$57,461
Australian Professorial Fellowship (APF), Step 1	5 years	100%	\$104,065	\$29,138	\$133,204
	5 years	50%/50%	\$52,033	\$14,569	\$66,602
Australian Professorial Fellowship (APF), Step 2	5 years	100%	\$120,389	\$33,709	\$154,099
	5 years	50%/50%	\$60,195	\$16,855	\$77,050
Federation Fellowship (FF)	5 years	n.a.	\$256,052	\$71,694	\$327,746

n.a. Not applicable

¹ Annual payments, projects commencing in 2007. On-costs are calculated at a slightly lower rate for projects commencing before 2007. Excludes any relocation or other allowances that may be payable. Salaries and stipends are shown in 2007 dollars and are subject to indexation.

² APAIs may be sought for up to three years. If the award is based on enrolment for a Masters degree, the ARC will allocate a maximum of up to two years' stipend only. PhD APAIs will be allocated a maximum of three years, with a possible six-month extension. IRFs may be sought for one or two years. Applicants for APDs may choose among two salary support options: 100 per cent salary and on-costs from the ARC for a standard tenure of three years, or 75 per cent salary and pro rata on-costs from the ARC and 25 per cent from the Host Organisation over four years. Applicants for ARFs, QEIIs and APFs may also choose among two salary support options: 100 per cent salary and on-costs from the ARC, or 50 per cent salary and pro rata on-costs from the ARC and 50 per cent from the Host Organisation, over the standard duration of five years.

³ Includes Australian Postgraduate Award Industry places in the fields of information technology and communications.