

9 April 2024

The Honourable Jason Clare MP
Minister for Education
jason.clare.mp@aph.gov.au

Re: Membership of the Australian Research Council Board

Dear Minister Clare,

The Australian Institute of Physics (AIP), the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) and the Astronomical Society of Australia (ASA) were pleased to see the ARC Review Act pass into law. We believe this is an important step forward that will strengthen our research funding system.

We write to provide feedback on the composition of the ARC Board. Specifically, we are concerned that the advertised eligibility constraints for Board members, designed to avoid conflicts of interest, are overly restrictive.

Diversity on the Board is important to ensure that the ARC serves Australia. However, excluding those who have roles in Australian universities would appear to exclude active researchers with current knowledge of the Australian research landscape. In addition, this group can provide direct experience with a funding body from a researcher's perspective. We believe it is important for this perspective to be represented on the ARC Board, provided that conflicts of interest are managed properly.

The AIP, RACI and ASA respectfully suggest that conflicts of interest can be managed without entirely excluding active research practitioners who are in receipt of ARC grant funding or who have a current association with an Australian university.

Thank you for considering this feedback, and for your work in strengthening the ARC.

Kind regards,



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