



From: Ross McLennan
Sent: Monday, 3 February 2025 5:25 PM
To: ARC - Postaward <ARC-Postaward@arc.gov.au>
Cc: [Richard.Johnson@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:Richard.Johnson@[REDACTED]) [Claire.Forsyth@\[REDACTED\]](mailto:Claire.Forsyth@[REDACTED]) Sakkie Pretorius
[REDACTED]
Subject: Notification of review of FT220100427

Dear ARC colleagues,

I am writing to you regarding ARC Future Fellowship FT220100427 awarded to Macquarie University with Dr Randa Abdel-Fattah as the Chief Investigator.

Macquarie University has recently been made aware of some statements relating to the conduct of this project that have been attributed to Dr Abdel-Fattah at a symposium organised by the Queensland University of Technology Carumba Institute (reported in *The Australian* on 30/01/2025).

The University takes its obligations under the Commonwealth Grant Agreement very seriously and refers to Clause 20.1 that states: "If at any time, in the opinion of [the University's] Responsible Officer, Grant Funds are not being expended in accordance with this Agreement, [the University] must take all action necessary to minimise further expenditure in relation to the project and inform [the ARC] immediately."

Whilst at this time we do not have any evidence of any misconduct or issues with performance of this project, I am writing to inform you that, in light of the reported statements, the University is fulfilling its obligation to undertake a review of activity on the grant (FT220100427) to ensure that there is no potential for there to have been:

1. Bending, refusing, and subverting ARC rules, and/or

2. Diversion of ARC funds to an alternate use.

In accordance with the above-mentioned Clause, I am informing the ARC that this review is being undertaken and that whilst this review is being undertaken all non-salary expenditure on this grant will be suspended.

This review is being conducted as a matter of urgency and I will inform you of the outcome as soon as possible.

Please don't hesitate to contact myself or [REDACTED] in cc) should you have any questions.

Best wishes,

Ross

Dr Ross McLennan

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T: [REDACTED]
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Pronouns: he/his

[Macquarie University](#)

I acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which Macquarie University stands – the Wallumattagal clan of the Dharug nation – whose cultures and customs have nurtured and continue to nurture this land since time immemorial. I pay my respects to Elders past and present.

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