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Dr Michael Crisp
President, Society of Australian Systematic Biologists

Dear Dr Crisp

Thank you for your letter of 4 December 1998 concerning reports in the "Australian" about proposed changes to the role of the Australian Research Council.

The Government is currently looking into ways in which it can further promote excellence in research and research training to ensure that Australia gets maximum benefit from its investment. To address these issues, I am developing a discussion paper on research and research training, which supports international peer review as a key component of the assessment process for competitive grants considered by the Australian Research Council.

The discussion paper will be released in early 1999. At that time there will be ample opportunity for further comment on proposals suggested in the paper before any policy decisions are made. The Government will also consult with all interested parties before any proposed changes are implemented.

Yours Sincerely

David Kemp

*The Hon. Dr David Kemp MP
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