

**Senate Standing Committees on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

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**Australia's sovereign naval shipbuilding capability**  
Friday, 15 October 2021

**Public Hearing**

**AGENCY: Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

**TOPIC: ANSTO STAFFING**

**QUESTION DATE: 15 October 2021**

**Question No.: 1**

**Has ANSTO engaged any staff on a secondment basis since it was briefed on the AUKUS announcement to procure nuclear propelled submarines? If so, how many and on secondment from where?**

No. ANSTO is currently assessing what additional staff will be required to support the nuclear submarine program.

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**AGENCY:** Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Agency

**TOPIC:** RESOURCING

**QUESTION No.:** 2

**QUESTION DATE:** 15 October 2021

**What resourcing and scale up of operations will be required for ANSTO if nuclear propelled submarines are procured?**

Determination of the resourcing required nationally to support the procurement of nuclear-powered submarines is an important consideration of the Task Force over the next 18 months. Determination of the role of ANSTO, and any resourcing and operational implications in support of procurement, is part of this process.

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**AGENCY: Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation**

**TOPIC: TRAINING**

**QUESTION No.: 3**

**QUESTION DATE: 15 October 2021**

**What qualifications and skills framework do we require for the workforce both uniform and civilian? Who is required to develop and regulate this?**

Determination of the workplace qualifications and skills framework to support the procurement of nuclear submarines is an important consideration of the Task Force over the next 18 months. Likewise, responsibility for regulatory oversight of workforce requirements will be considered by the Task Force.

Speaking from the experience of operating the OPAL multipurpose reactor, operators undergo six to seven months of classroom training and approximately five months of on-the-job training (approximately one year in total) with a mixture of written examinations, practical examinations, and panel interviews in front of management and our nuclear safety regulator. These examinations are designed to demonstrate competence in reactor physics, reactor safety case, emergency response, radiation safety, reactor systems, security, human factors, communications, and other elements relating to the role. Written and verbal examinations are repeated every three years under regulatory oversight. Engineering, maintenance, and production teams also have role-specific training requirements focusing on the unique reactor systems associated with their roles.

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**AGENCY:** Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Agency

**TOPIC:** ANSTO STAFFING

**QUESTION No.: 4**

**QUESTION DATE:** 15 October 2021

- **How many staff does ANSTO have working on the Nuclear Submarine taskforce looking at the procurement proposal over the next 18 months?**

ANSTO staff have been working with the Task Force since its formation on an as-needed basis to assist in establishing the Task Force and its program of work. ANSTO is currently working with the Task Force to formalise the level of support required from ANSTO over the coming 18 months. We anticipate that a number of staff across multiple disciplines will be directly involved to support the Task Force, including a Liaison Officer embedded in the Task Force to provide advice and to facilitate broader engagement with ANSTO.