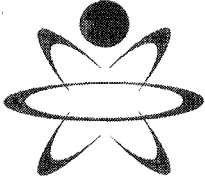


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**CSIRO STAFF ASSOCIATION**

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Secretary  
Joint Standing Committee on Public Works  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

8 April 2010

By email [pwc@aph.gov.au](mailto:pwc@aph.gov.au)

**Submission into the inquiry into the Pawsey High Performance Computer Centre for SKA Science at Kensington, Western Australia**

Dear Committee,

The CSIRO Staff Association is a section of the Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU). We represent approximately 3000 staff in CSIRO, including scientists, technical staff, support and administrative staff. The Staff Association supports CSIRO's development of capability for SKA science and high performance computing. There are two aspects of CSIRO's statement of evidence that we would like to draw to the attention of the Committee, office accommodation and child care.

**Office accommodation**

It is not clear from CSIRO's statement which specific standards or guidelines have underpinned the design of office accommodation. From the ground floor plan it would appear that the offices have an average area of ~13.5 m<sup>2</sup>? Is this consistent with the CSIRO Property Management guidelines, including consideration of the role and positions of staff? Is it consistent with Commonwealth Office Accommodation Guidelines? The Staff Association fully supports office accommodation for CSIRO staff, including in the Pawsey Centre, but also notes the problematic overall trend towards open plan accommodation for scientific and technical staff in other recent significant public works such as the Boggo Road Science Precinct in Brisbane. The Association requests that the Committee seeks answers to these questions and greater transparency from CSIRO in explaining the rationale for accommodation of staff.

**Child care provisions**

CSIRO's statement on child care provisions is not accurate. It is the Staff Association's view that additional child care needs from the Pawsey Centre will not be met by the existing child care centre at the adjacent Technology Park. This child care centre, although in the Precinct, has no arrangement whatsoever with CSIRO and therefore staff have no preference, not only new staff at the Pawsey Centre, but also existing staff at the ARRC facility. CSIRO staff are competing for places with workers from Curtin University, local business and industry as well as residents. The centre is fully occupied and has a significant waiting list.

CSIRO has a commitment under Clause 71b of the CSIRO Enterprise Agreement 2008-2011 that states that *'All new CSIRO building projects or significant additions to current facilities will include an assessment of demand for, and feasibility of, providing childcare for staff with young children.'* This has not occurred for the Pawsey Centre. The CSIRO statement of evidence on child care provisions is presumptuous because the organisation has not followed due process, including implementing its Clause 71b obligation under the CSIRO Enterprise Agreement. The Association requests that the Committee ensure that CSIRO acknowledges this and fully corrects its statement on the public record.

Yours sincerely,

Sam Popovski  
Secretary