

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
3-4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Japan research partnership

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 4 June 2015, page 42)

QUESTION No.: BI-42

Mr Medland: I am the chief financial officer. In the department portfolio budget statements on page 29 it outlines the funding for the Australia-China Science and Research Fund. In 2015-16 it is \$1.6 million, in 2016-17 it is \$3.7 million, in 2017-18 it is \$2.5 million and in 2018-19 it is \$2.2 million. For the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund in 2015-16 it is just over \$4 million, in 2016-17 it is \$2.5 million, in 2017-18 it is \$2.2 million and in 2018-19 it is \$1 million.

Senator KIM CARR: So it is about \$10 million, is it?

Mr Medland: I think it is a bit more than that.

Prof. Chubb: About that.

Senator KIM CARR: It is about \$10 million. For China, it is a little bit less than \$10 million.

Prof. Chubb: It is bigger.

Ms Beauchamp: Yes, it is bigger.

Senator KIM CARR: How much is the total for the China fund?

Mr Medland: It is a bit under \$10 million, but that is an ongoing program.

Senator KIM CARR: It is an ongoing program; that is true. But we spend \$9.2 billion on research in this country and we are spending less than \$20 million in these two countries. What about Japan? What happened on the Japan one? Has that been renewed?

Ms Beauchamp: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

Under the International Science Linkages (ISL) programme, which ran for ten years and terminated in June 2011, a total of \$2,042,425 (GST exclusive) was granted for science and technology collaboration activities to promote cooperation with Japan. Japan and Australia collaborated on nearly 6,000 co-authored publications in the period 2009-13, so most of the collaboration undertaken is at individual researcher level, funded from the Australian Government's overall commitment to science and research funding.

In addition to support through funding mechanisms, on the basis of scientific merit, provided through the Australian Research Council (ARC), National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC), and research block grants for higher education institutions, since 2010-11, the Department of Industry and Science has provided grants to the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (totalling more than \$580,000 GST exclusive) for targeted activities with Japan to promote innovation and science collaboration.

The Australian and Japanese Governments hold a regular dialogue to promote bilateral science and technology cooperation. The 15th Australia-Japan Joint Science and Technology Committee meeting will be held in August 2015.