

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Australian Stem Cell Centre

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 10 February 2010, E70 – 71)

QUESTION No.: AI - 105

Senator McGAURAN—What is the budget for the Australian Stem Cell Centre for this financial year and the next financial year?

Mr Paterson—When you ask ‘What is the budget,’ it is not an activity of this department.....

Senator McGAURAN—The government grant to it.

Mr Paterson—Yes.

Senator McGAURAN—It says in your annual report that there will be \$100 million from 2002 to 2011. Is that still the amount that you are working around?

Mr Chesworth—Yes, that is correct. The funding profile continues until 30 June 2011.....

Senator McGAURAN—Where does your \$5 million go? Does it go into a pool or is it directed?

Mr Chesworth—It goes directly to the Australian Stem Cell Centre, and the funding is paid on a quarterly basis against a range of milestones that are articulated in the deed of agreement that the government has with the centre.

Senator McGAURAN—So you do not tie your \$5 million?

Mr Chesworth—The payment of the funds is contingent upon the Australian Stem Cell Centre meeting the requirements of the deed of the agreement.

Senator McGAURAN—There was a review done relatively recently; is that right?

Mr Chesworth—That is correct.

Senator McGAURAN—Is it true to say that all that they found was that it needed to publicise its works better? In every other way was it meeting its benchmarks or not?

Mr Chesworth—There have been a number of reviews conducted of the centre.....

Senator McGauran - Is committee able to obtain a copy of the last review undertaken?

Mr Chesworth—Could I take that on notice—the reason being that there are some commercial-in-confidence issues associated with it.

Senator McGauran - Is committee able to obtain a copy of the last review undertaken?

ANSWER

The last review of Australian Stem Cell Centre was undertaken in 2008. The final report of this review is a Commercial-in-Confidence document. The executive summary and recommendations of this report were tabled by Minister Carr at Additional Estimates on 26 February 2009.

A copy of the tabled document is available at:

http://www.aph.gov.au/Senate/committee/economics_ctte/estimates/add_0809/IISR/tabled_docs/tabled_doc_2.pdf