

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS)

**REFERENCE:** Written Question –Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** AI-29

In respect to **NCRIS** – The National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (a \$542m 7 year program spanning 2004-2011):

- (1) What is the stated purpose of program?
- (2) When did the program commence and when is it scheduled to end?
- (3) How much money has been budgeted for the program for each year of the program?
- (4) How much funds have been spent to-date on the program for each year of the program?
- (5) Is the program on schedule and on budget?
- (6) How are funds appropriated to the program allocated?
- (7) Is spending under the program subject to guidelines and/or ministerial decision?
- (8) If there are no guidelines governing spending how is it governed?
- (9) Have all funds been allocated in accordance with the guidelines?
- (10) Where ministerial approval of payments is required – have any payments or amount of payment been made, or not made, contrary to Departmental recommendations?
- (11) Is the Department aware of any situation where funds have not been spent in accordance with the guidelines or any other requirement regarding the use of the funds?
- (12) Has any situation arisen requiring the recovery by the Government of funds paid by the government?
- (13) What amount has the Department spent in administering the program in each of the years of the programs operation?

**Answer**

(1) This information is publicly available at:  
[www.innovation.gov.au/Section/science/Pages/ncris.aspx](http://www.innovation.gov.au/Section/science/Pages/ncris.aspx)

(2) Commenced in 2004-05. Due to finish in 2010-11.

(3)

Year	Amount
2005-06	\$13.151 million
2006-07	\$78.196 million
2007-08	\$120.597 million
2008-09	\$102.800 million
2009-10	\$105.311 million
2010-11	\$106.878 million

(4)

Year	Amount
2005-06	\$13.151 million
2006-07	\$78.196 million
2007-08	\$120.597 million
2008-09	\$102.800 million
2009-10	\$91.443 million at 28 Feb 2010

(5) Yes.

(6) Priority areas of investment into research infrastructure were identified through extensive consultations with the research community. Independent external facilitators were commissioned by the NCRIS Committee to develop investment plans for priority capabilities identified in the 2006 Strategic Roadmap. The investment plans were subject to public comment and assessment by the NCRIS Committee, and formed the basis for the funding agreements of the funded priority capabilities.

(7) This information is publicly available at:

[http://ncris.innovation.gov.au/Documents/Invest\\_Framework.pdf](http://ncris.innovation.gov.au/Documents/Invest_Framework.pdf)

(8) Not applicable.

(9) Yes.

(10) Not applicable.

(11) No.

(12) No.

(13)

Year	Amount
2005-06	\$195,511
2006-07	\$184,589
2007-08	\$152,000
2008-09	\$281,249
2009-10	\$267,559 at 28 Feb 2010