

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
23 February 2011

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** Telephone survey on nuclear science and nuclear power

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 February 2011, E19)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-5

**Senator BUSHBY**—Did ANSTO conduct or commission or was it otherwise involved in a telephone survey on nuclear science and nuclear power in the months leading up the federal election?

**Dr Paterson**—A survey was conducted during the latter part of July and the early part of August.

**Senator BUSHBY**—On those issues?

**Dr Paterson**—Yes.

**Senator BUSHBY**—Have you released those results publicly?

**Dr Paterson**—We have not released the results publicly.

**Senator BUSHBY**—Are you going to release those results publicly?

**Dr Paterson**—I am not sure of the exact process we have in place. I will take it on notice.

**ANSWER**

ANSTO conducted an unstratified survey in late July 2010. This survey was focused on the Sutherland Shire area, with smaller samples being taken in other major cities for the purposes of comparison. It was not, nor intended to be, a national survey, but rather have a localised focus. The 2010 research was a follow-up exercise to previous market research undertaken for ANSTO in 2003-04 and in 2007. It sought to measure the percentage of community stakeholders that have either some knowledge or a detailed understanding of what ANSTO does, and to gauge community attitudes towards ANSTO and ANSTO's activities. Questions ranged from the view of local residents on the safety of ANSTO's Lucas Heights facility, the use of nuclear science to solve environmental issues and perceptions of the role of ANSTO, through to community attitudes about nuclear science and technology, such as interest in a national debate on the use of nuclear energy and the treatment and storage of nuclear waste. A link to the summary of results of the survey can be found on ANSTO's website. Those results obviously reflect community attitudes at the time of the survey. The link is as follows:

[http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering\\_ansto/media\\_centre/media\\_releases\\_2011/ansto\\_media\\_releases\\_and\\_statements/?a=50134](http://www.ansto.gov.au/discovering_ansto/media_centre/media_releases_2011/ansto_media_releases_and_statements/?a=50134)