

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11
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AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: ANSTO Young Researchers Club

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: AI-59

What is the ANSTO Young Researchers Club; how does it work; what have its results been; and how much funding has been directed to it?

ANSWER

The ANSTO Young Researchers Club is an initiative that aims to provide support for young researchers at ANSTO, including ANSTO's most recent intake of graduates. The Club was initiated in 2009, by ANSTO's Research Management Office, to enable pathways for young researchers across ANSTO to connect and commence career networking processes. Currently, there are 80 registered members of the Club. The focus of the Club is to foster career development by creating new opportunities and encouraging professional relationships. It connects early career researchers and researchers in training (students) within ANSTO. It also provides opportunities for young researchers to have access to research equipment and instruments, to learn more about the research and innovation undertaken in the various research units and to exchange experiences with their counterparts.

The club holds fortnightly meetings with a mix of research-related and social events such as research talks from internal and external speakers, equipment tours through various divisions at ANSTO and social picnics. A recent speed networking event enabled members to engage with ANSTO staff they would not normally meet during their day-to-day activities and identify potential collaborations within ANSTO. At present, learning and development possibilities are being explored: for example, workshops on presentation skills, how to approach opportunities for grants and how to write credible, stand out applications.

The functions of the Club and the associated activities have been informally evaluated and found to be positive and enabling for the staff involved. The Research Management Office evaluates the programme and events on an ongoing basis. The programme is regarded as achieving its objectives.

For the 2009-10 financial year, \$1,500 (GST exclusive) has been directed to the ANSTO Young Researchers Club; this amount does not include staff time.