

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Social Research Unit

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 15 February 12, page 18)

QUESTION No.: AI-12

Senator BUSHBY: I have only about 25 seconds left. Does the CSIRO have a social research unit and, if so, in which part of the organisation is it housed; how many full-time, part-time and casual employees are part of the unit; and what is the total funding allocated to it?

Mr Whelan: I think that question was asked on notice at the last hearing. I would be happy to refer you to the answer. Perhaps you want to ask another question.

Senator BUSHBY: I think I am probably done time-wise.

Mr Whelan: Okay. I will get you the answer to that question.

ANSWER

CSIRO does not have a single social research unit. CSIRO's social and economic sciences capability is delivered by 195 FTEs deployed to seven National Research Flagships and four Divisional Portfolios (data as at December 2011). Over half of these staff are research scientists.

Staff are housed in five Divisions: Food and Nutritional Sciences (FNS); Ecosystem Sciences (CES), Marine and Atmospheric Research (CMAR), Earth Science and Resource Engineering (CESRE) and Energy Technology (CET).

Sites at which CSIRO's capability is located include Canberra, Brisbane, Perth, Adelaide, Townsville, Sydney, Cairns, Alice Springs, Darwin, Newcastle, Hobart and Melbourne. Additionally CSIRO has personnel on long-term deployments in Southeast Asia.

An example of CSIRO's social and economic sciences capability is the Science in Society group – refer to the answer to SI-77 Supplementary Estimates October 2011.