

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Workplace Bullying

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No: AI-1 5 5

1. On what date was Professor Dennis Pearce first contacted to gauge his potential interest in heading the inquiry into workplace bullying and harassment at CSIRO, and by whom?
2. By whom was he formally invited to head the inquiry; on what date; and how?
3. On what date did he agree to head the inquiry, and to whom was his formal acceptance of the appointment notified?
4. On what date(s) did Minister Evans and/or Minister Bowen provide their approval, in writing, for the appointment of Professor Pearce as the head of the inquiry?
5. On what date(s) did Minister Evans and/or Minister Bowen provide their approval, in writing, of the Terms of Reference for the inquiry?
6. Aside from the direct discussions with Dr Pearce and his team, has advice on how to constitute the inquiry been sought by CSIRO from any other external individual or organisation - if so, who, how, on what date(s) and why?

ANSWER

1. Professor Pearce was first contacted by the CSIRO's Acting General Counsel, Mr Chris Gibson, on 23 January 2013.
2. By the CSIRO's Chief Executive, Dr Megan Clark, on 4 February 2013, in a teleconference.
3. Professor Pearce agreed to head the inquiry on 4 February 2013, by indicating this to Dr Clark in their teleconference on that date.
4. Ministerial approval was not required for this appointment.
5. Ministerial approval was not required.
6. The CSIRO consulted with the Department of Defence on 15 January 2013 and the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service during the week of 14 January 2013. Both discussions occurred by telephone. The advice was sought because the CSIRO wanted to consider the views of other Commonwealth agencies who might have had relevant experience.