

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

**TOPIC:** Sports Drug testing – Detection of peptides

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 44)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-17

**Senator BUSHBY:** I have some questions for the National Measurement Institute. I understand that the NMI perform virtually all of the sports drug testing carried out in Australia and New Zealand. Is that correct?

**Dr Fisk:** Yes. We are the only laboratory in Australia accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency for that purpose.

**Senator BUSHBY:** Which probably explains why you do most of the work. How many staff do you currently have undertaking that testing?

**Dr Fisk:** Presently it is 20 staff—20 full-time effective staff.

**Senator BUSHBY:** Is that for the whole of the NMI or working on that particular aspect?

**Dr Fisk:** That is just working on the sports drug function.

**Senator BUSHBY:** Has that number of people changed significantly over the course of the past year or even two years?

**Dr Fisk:** Not significantly, no. It has been quite stable.

**Senator BUSHBY:** When did drug testing at the NMI first include testing relating to the detection of peptides?

**Dr Fisk:** I will take that on notice. I would have to check.

**ANSWER**

NMI has 20 full time equivalent staff undertaking sports drug testing.

The staff, facilities and functions of the Australian Government Analytical Laboratory (AGAL) became part of NMI at NMI's formation in 2004. AGAL implemented its first peptide hormone testing in the mid-1990s.