

**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:** Grant funding – research and business

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 13 February 2013, page 47)

**QUESTION No.:** A1-20

**Senator BUSHBY:** The department's fact sheet for 2010, under 'Enterprise Connect: Research and Business', indicated that there was \$10 million committed to support this—and an additional \$1.7 million over three years to specifically support mathematical science based internships. Has that commitment of \$11.7 million gone by the wayside?

**Mrs Urquhart:** No, Senator, but I would need to check to details of the fact sheet to which you are referring.

**Senator BUSHBY:** I have fact sheet 2010, headed 'Enterprise Connect: Shaping Business and Transforming Industry. Research and Business fact sheet'

**Mrs Urquhart:** I have that fact sheet in front of me, I believe, Senator.

**Senator BUSHBY:** Okay, the second, smaller dark heading, 'What is research and business'.

**Mrs Urquhart:** Okay. Our fact sheet has been updated since that time, since the one I think you have in front of you.

**Senator BUSHBY:** This is from 2010.

**Mrs Urquhart:** Certainly, we have arrangements with a number of agencies that we work with in the course of implementing the program. You are referring to maths and science internships. We have an arrangement currently with AMSI, the Australian Mathematical Sciences Institute. They work with us to facilitate the matching of placements of maths and science graduates.

**Senator BUSHBY:** And are you using some of the money allocated for research and business for that purpose?

**Mrs Urquhart:** We use the grant funding which is allocated to the program to support placements that are identified through that organisation, yes.

**Senator BUSHBY:** Okay. So, is that included in the money that you indicated to me had been spent?

**Mrs Urquhart:** Yes.

**Senator BUSHBY:** Okay. So the \$11.7 million—the \$10 million plus \$1.7 million—that three years ago was shown as allocated is no longer committed to this particular program?

**Mrs Urquhart:** I cannot tell you that off the top of my head, but what I could do is potentially give you a breakdown of the different grants that we have applied—some of them facilitated through AMSI, some of them facilitated through CSIRO's business engagement offices; if that would be helpful to you.

**Senator BUSHBY:** It might be useful. Would the answer be that, in the 2½ to three years since that fact sheet was on the website, you have spent the bulk of that \$11.7 million?

**Mrs Henderson:** Senator, if I may: I think that your latter interpretation is correct. So the information that has been provided by Ms Urquhart relates to this financial year, 2012-13—and, of

course, does not take into account the money that was available to the RIB component of Enterprise Connect from the beginning of the service, which was in financial year 2008-09.

**Senator BUSHBY:** So if you could take on notice an explanation of how much has been spent since that fact sheet was put up—and, if there is some uncommitted money that does not show up in the amount that you have indicated is currently committed, what might have happened to that.

**Mrs Urquhart:** We can certainly give you a breakdown across years.

## **ANSWER**

At 31 January 2013, \$8.9 million had been spent on the Researchers in Business initiative. A further \$2.1m is committed against the initiative with the balance of \$0.7m expected to be committed by the end of the calendar year. These figures include funding made available for mathematical science based internships.