

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates 2004-2005, 31 May 2004 to 2 June 2004

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**OUTCOME/OUTPUT:** Outcome , Output  
**TOPIC:** INDUSTRY, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD – CONFLICT OF INTEREST ISSUES  
**REFERENCE:** HANSARD 31/5/04, PAGE E96, 98

**QUESTION No.80**  
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E96)

**Senator Campbell** asked about:

How many meetings of the Biological Committee [to the IR&D Board] did Dr Hirshon miss?

**ANSWER**

From 1 July 2001 to 31 May 2004 the Biological Committee held a total of forty seven meetings. Dr Hirshorn did not attend eleven of these meetings.

**QUESTION No.81**  
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E98)

**Senator Campbell** asked about:

Are there any other companies associated with the Industry Research and Development Board, or subcommittee members, who have received funding through any program administered by the department or AusIndustry?

**ANSWER**

Yes. As Board and Committee members are drawn from industry and academia with qualifications and experience in a range of commercial and technical fields relevant to the Board's deliberations, it is essential that there be very strict conflict of interest procedures.

Upon appointment each member provides a comprehensive record of their (and their immediate family's) private interests, which is updated annually. In accordance with the Board's Conflict of Interest Guidelines, members must also declare potential conflicts of interests prior to each meeting and a determination is made as to whether or not the conflict is material. A material conflict of interest in a company precludes the member from access to all commercial-in-confidence material, or participation in any discussions or decisions, relative to the company.