

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 2, Output 2.1
TOPIC: AUSTRALIAN STEM CELL CENTRE
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.75
(Written QON)

Senator Harradine asked:

Are you aware that the Australian Stem Cell Centre (ASCC) – a company the Government has granted over \$100 million – is now lobbying for changes to the *Prohibition of Human Cloning Act* so that it can clone human embryos for research? How will the Government ensure that no government funds are used in the ASCC lobbying effort? Please provide proof to the Committee that funds for lobbying are separately budgeted and that government funding is quarantined.

ANSWER

Use of Australian Government Biotechnology Centre of Excellence Program funds by the ASCC is governed by the Biotechnology Centre of Excellence Deed of Agreement. Subject to the provisions of this Deed and all applicable laws, the ASCC undertakes activities that may assist it to meet the Objectives of the Biotechnology Centre of Excellence Program.

The ASCC has informed the Department that:

- the ASCC recognises the importance of engaging in public education activities with the objective of delivering information about stem cells and stem cell research in Australia; and
- it will provide accurate, factual information to a broad cross section of audiences to help inform the public and parliamentary debate.