

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10
01 June 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Research Funding

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: BI-101

In reference to the Economics Committee Additional Estimates on 26 February 2009 – at page E 136 of the proof Committee Hansard, Senator Abetz makes reference to Dr Cutler's Report on the Review of the National Innovation System, and states that the report says that research staffing at ANSTO is being reduced from 250 to 200. Dr Ron Cameron, chief of operations at ANSTO, then wrote to the committee secretary on 10 March 2009 stating that the report states that ANSTO's research staffing is being reduced from 300 to 250.

- a) Have these jobs cut from 300 to 250 occurred?
- b) Where were the jobs cut from?
- c) Has this led to the reduction of any research projects?
- d) What long term affects will this have on ANSTO research?

ANSWER

- a) Yes.
- b) As indicated by Dr Cameron at the Additional Estimates Committee hearing of 26 February 2009, (Hansard page E194), both operational and research staff numbers at ANSTO have been reduced. Specifically, staff were reduced in the materials engineering, radiopharmaceutical and environmental research areas of ANSTO as well as operations staff predominately from Campus Services and from ANSTO Radiopharmaceuticals and Industrials.
- c) As stated by Dr Cameron at the Additional Estimates Committee hearing of 26 February 2009, (Hansard page E194) staff reductions have resulted in a reduction of research projects. There has been a reduction in projects in materials engineering, radiopharmaceutical and environmental research.
- d) The decisions made to reduce staff numbers in some research areas were based on refocusing research priorities and minimising effects on ANSTO's long term research capabilities.