

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: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Contracts – Commercial Ready Grants

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 1 June 2009, E24)

QUESTION No.: BI-38

Senator ABETZ—... In relation to the 11 contracts, you must be able to tell us, without breaching any commercial-in-confidence, the value of those contracts with the CSIRO. I fully accept, of course, that the total value of the contracts will not be necessarily related to the funding that they got under commercial-ready, but could you give the total?

Dr Clark—I do not have that number with me.

Senator ABETZ—You can take it on notice.

Dr Clark—The department does publish each of their grant allocations to individual companies, so we can provide that information.

Senator ABETZ—Sorry, you can provide that?

Dr Clark—We do not have it right here today.

Senator ABETZ—Yes, but you will on notice?

Dr Clark—It is public information.

Senator ABETZ—But will I necessarily know as to which company was a commercial-ready beneficiary that then moved on to partner with the CSIRO, because the number of partnerships you had with companies would be above and beyond those that have commercial-ready funding?

Dr Clark—We can certainly provide it on notice.

ANSWER

CSIRO is aware, from the published list of Commercial Ready grant recipients during the financial years 2005/06 to 2007/08, that eleven of its commercial partners obtained Commercial Ready support. However, a connection between the project for which the company received the Commercial Ready grant and the project on which they have partnered with CSIRO has not been established in the case of all partners. In at least one case, it is known that the company, which was a spin-out from CSIRO, did not use the funding received through the Commercial Ready program to partner with CSIRO. In the case of grants to eight companies where a known connection to the Commercial Ready program exists, CSIRO has anticipated an estimated revenue from those projects of \$4.713million. These revenues would be received during the period of the grant activities which is usually 2 – 3 years.