

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
31 May 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Innovation Ambassadors Program

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard 31 May 2010, E109)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-35

**Senator COLBECK**—Do the science and innovation ambassadors fall within this part of the portfolio? I just want to get some sense of the delivery of that election commitment.

**Prof. Durant**—The Science and Engineering Ambassadors scheme does not form part of the SCOPE program.

**Senator COLBECK**—What about somewhere within outcome 2 of the department? I am just going back to your election policy, Minister, which is \$5 million allocated for the innovation ambassador role of the new Innovation Australia board to establish a stronger innovation ambassador program.

**Mr Paterson**—Outcome 1.

**Senator COLBECK**—It is outcome 1. So we have missed. I will put that on notice and you can provide me with all the glorious data later. Does the Cairns Institute Tropical Innovation Hub come within this element of the portfolio?

**ANSWER**

On 6 February 2008, Minister Tanner announced the Government would not proceed with the former Government's Innovation Ambassadors Program.

This announcement was in the context of savings designed to lead the fight against inflation, and the announcement of a wide ranging review of Australia's national innovation system.

The Government's response to this review, *Powering Ideas – An Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century*, outlined a ten-year agenda to support innovation, jobs and growth including the new R&D Tax Credit, *Commercialisation Australia* and the establishment of Industry Innovation Councils.