

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Cyclotrons

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 31 May 2010, E13)

QUESTION No.: BI-4

Senator HEFFERNAN—..... I will go to the cyclotron. Is it true that ANSTO is providing capital funding for equipment using the cyclotron technology at hospitals around the country?

Dr Paterson—ANSTO has a number of programs in which we collaborate with research groups. This includes, on occasion, co-investment in facilities and in some cases the extension of existing facilities. ANSTO is involved currently in five separate discussions that involve partnerships and funding of cyclotron facilities around Australia.

Senator HEFFERNAN—As I understand it, you are going to Austin. But what process do you use in determining where the funding goes?

Senator HEFFERNAN—..... Obviously there are some distressed people in the market. Can ANSTO explain how the head of PET at the Austin Hospital, Professor Andrew Scott, who is also an ANSTO board member, can be the recipient of nearly \$2 million worth of ANSTO capital without an open grant process?

Dr Paterson—ANSTO is not a granting agency. It is a national research facility which partners right across Australia in different relationships.

Senator HEFFERNAN—So do you cover off the conflict-of-interest thing somehow?

Dr Paterson—Absolutely. The conflict-of-interest matter is always raised at every board meeting and there is an opportunity for members of the board to participate or not to participate in certain aspects—

Senator HEFFERNAN—So in the case of Austin Hospital, what did Professor Scott say and do?

Dr Paterson—I do not think he said or did anything.

Senator HEFFERNAN—Can you take that on notice. I will put all of these on notice anyhow....

ANSWER

ANSTO advises the original responses provided by Dr Adi Paterson stand. Additionally, the ANSTO Board and ANSTO's operations operate in accordance with the *Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Act 1987* and the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997*. ANSTO is satisfied that the requirements of both Acts have been met.