

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: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Patent Licensing

REFERENCE: Written Question –Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: BI-60

What has been the process of the on-going Wi-Fi patent licensing? (*The Australian* on 18/5/2010)

ANSWER

After trying for many years to implement a voluntary licensing program, CSIRO successfully concluded a round of patent litigation in the US in 2009 relating to its Wireless Local Area network (WLAN) patent. The resolution included the granting of 14 licenses to the US WLAN patent and its international equivalents. There are now 17 company groups which are licensed under CSIRO's patents.

CSIRO is continuing its licensing program for its WLAN technology. As part of that program, there is current litigation in the US involving nine company groups.

CSIRO is continuing to ensure that the proceeds of its WLAN licensing program are devoted to further scientific research for the benefit of Australia and people generally. The vehicle for this is the Science and Industry Research Fund, a trust fund to support scientific research originally founded with its own Act of the Commonwealth Parliament in 1926.