

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
30 May 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: International Science Linkages program

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: BI-128

- 1) Is it correct that there have been four reviews of the International Science Linkages program which have been made publicly available (by a Federal parliamentary committee; the Australian Academy of Science; the Australian Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering; and a consultant commissioned by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Science respectively) – and that all of them were supportive of the program?
- 2) Is it true that there was also a separate internal DIISR review of the program undertaken – and, if so, when was this completed, what did it say, and why hasn't it been released publicly?

ANSWER

1) No. In 2003, the Department of Education, Science and Training commissioned an evaluation of the Innovation Access Programme (which from July 2004 became the International Science Linkages program). In 2010, the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research conducted an evaluation of the International Science Linkages program, in accordance with best practice for terminating programs, which was completed in February 2011. The evaluation report is available on the department's website. These evaluations were supportive of most elements of the International Science Linkages program.

The Australian Academy of Science *Review of the International Exchange Programs of the Australian Academy of Science* (Foursight Associates, 2009), and the Australian Academy of Technological Science and Engineering (ATSE) *Impact of the ISL - Science Academies Program, A Five Year Self Assessment* (ATSE, 2010) reviews that you refer to were commissioned by these organisations and are reviews of components of the International Science Linkages program. The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Industry, Science and Innovation inquiry report into Australia's International Research Collaboration that you refer to was requested by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science and Research and investigated Australia's general international research collaboration.

2) No. As advised in BI-40, there have been two formal reviews of the International Science Linkages program::

- *Evaluation of the Innovation Access Programme - International Science and Technology, Final Report* (2003, Allen Consulting). (The Innovation Access Programme became the International Science Linkages program from July 2004); and
- *Evaluation of the International Science Linkages Program* (2010, Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research).

The most recent evaluation report is available on the department's website.