

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

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

**TOPIC:** Media training Chief Scientist

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 30 May 2011, E41-42)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-23

**1) QUESTION - Senator COLBECK:**.....On how many occasions was Professor Sackett provided with media training during her time as Chief Scientist?

**Senator Carr:** I am sorry, I cannot assist you on that matter. We would have to take that on notice.

**Senator COLBECK:** Can you tell me the nature of that training?

**Senator Carr:** I cannot assist you.

**Senator COLBECK:** There is no-one here from the department who might be able to assist us with that?

**Senator Carr:** The Office of the Chief Scientist is run entirely independently of the department. I am not certain that there is anyone here who can assist us.

**Mr Paterson:** I understand that it was on two occasions. I think that there has been a response to a question that we may have received on this issue, but it is not something that I have any direct, personal, first-hand knowledge of, nor does the department. I believe the office may well have responded.

**Senator COLBECK:** The only thing that I have reference to is an FOI document which indicates that there were four occasions, three in 2009 and done in 2010, on which Professor Sackett and possibly others were provided with some formal media training.

**Mr Paterson:** That is why trying to be helpful in these things does not always work. We will take it notice and try to find out. We have not got a direct answer. As I said, I understood it to be two. If you have advice from somebody else that it is four then you ought to rely on that advice. We will examine the issue. I do not know who has provided you with that answer.

**Senator Colbeck:** Unfortunately, I do not have the actual FOI documents here in my folder.....

**Senator COLBECK:** If you are taking all this on notice, I will just put this information down on the record for you to deal with too, please. I would like to know what the nature of the training was. Was it delivered by an external provider or providers? I would like to know what the cost of it was. That will do for that.....

**2) QUESTION (Senator Colbeck) .....**We might be coming to your recollections, Mr Paterson, in respect of whether Professor Sackett attended at least two sessions during which she was trained on how to answer questions at Senate estimates. That may be what we are talking about. What is your recollection?

**Mr Paterson:** That does not touch on my recollection. I can make no comment in relation to any training that might have been provided to her on Senate estimates.

**Senator COLBECK:** Can you take on notice, then, if that was the case and also the dates on which that might have occurred.

**Mr Paterson:** I am happy to take that on notice.

**Senator COLBECK:** I would also like to know who ran those sessions and what was covered in the training.

**Mr Paterson:** In saying I will take that on notice, I do not acknowledge that it has necessarily occurred at all.

**Senator COLBECK:** If that is the answer that is the answer.

**3) QUESTION Senator COLBECK:**.....Is it correct that there was a whole-of-office planning day for the Chief Scientist on 14 April 2010, then a team-building day on 27 July 2010 and an executive workshop for strategic planning purposes on 10 December 2010? Have there been other, similar sessions on other dates?

**Mr Paterson:** We are happy to get answers to those questions later this afternoon. We do not have that detail. As the minister has already indicated, the Office of the Chief Scientist operates independently of the department, so I do not have any access to direct knowledge of activities undertaken. We can endeavour to get the answers.

## ANSWERS

- 1) Based on available records, Professor Sackett undertook media training on six occasions during her tenure (3 November 2008 to 4 March 2011 inclusive) including one session by telephone. Training focused on media management, engagement and presentation. Training was delivered by Talkforce Pty Ltd. The total cost for media training during Professor Sackett's term was \$5,750. Details are provided in the table below:

Date of training	Provider (external or internal)	Nature (what it covered)	Cost (GST exclusive)
24 March and 9 April 2009	Talkforce Pty Ltd	Media management	\$1500
11 June 2009	Talkforce Pty Ltd	Media management	\$1400
1 December 2009	Talkforce Pty Ltd	Engagement & presentation	\$1000
2 February 2010	Talkforce Pty Ltd	Engagement & presentation Media management	\$1350
No record of date when phone session took place. (Invoice dated 26 March 2011.)	Talkforce Pty Ltd	Media preparation– telephone session	\$500

- 2) Based on available records, Professor Sackett attended two training seminars at Parliament House on Senate processes, run by the Department of the Senate. This training was provided on 29 January 2009 and on 2 September 2009. The training covered matters such as the working of the Senate, the legislative process, the committee process, the relationship between Parliament and the public service, and the fundamentals of parliamentary privilege, including the rights and obligations of witnesses.

Date of training	Provider	Nature (what it	Cost/attendees
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		<b>covered)</b>	
29 January 2009	Department of the Senate	Introduction to the Senate	\$1,341.53 +\$100 to cater for 15 Staff including Chief Scientist, Office of the Chief Scientist and Science & Research staff
2 September 2009	Department of the Senate	Parliament, privilege and accountability	\$200 Chief Scientist

3) Yes. Additional planning sessions are outlined below.

<b>Date of event</b>	<b>Type of event</b>	<b>Location</b>
16 February 2009	Planning day	National Library
6 August 2009	Planning day	Botanic Gardens
14 April 2010	Planning day	Mount Stromlo
27 July 2010	Change management and work planning process. Individual 1 hr (x2) staff coaching throughout July and August	Mount Stromlo and at OCS
10 December 2010	Executive planning day	Botanic Gardens