

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: Appointment of Chief Scientist

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: BI-79

Senator Colbeck

1. At the Estimates hearing in May 2011, the Department's then Secretary said "we took advice" in relation to the appointment of the new Chief Scientist. From whom was that advice taken?
2. Given the position wasn't advertised, what was the first form of interaction between Professor Chubb and those responsible for selecting the new Chief Scientist? Did he make an unsolicited expression of interest or was he contacted – and on what date did this occur?

ANSWER

1. Advice was taken from members of the selection panel established in connection with the appointment of the previous Chief Scientist (Professor Margaret Sheil, CEO of the Australian Research Council, Professor Warwick Anderson AM, CEO of the National Health and Medical Research Council and Mr Mark Paterson AO, (then) Secretary of the department of innovation, Industry, Science and Research) as well as Dr Megan Clark, CEO of CSIRO.
2. Professor Chubb was appointed by Cabinet. Consistent with the Cabinet Handbook, prior to going to Cabinet the Department contacted Professor Chubb in order to obtain from him the mandatory details required by the appointment process. Based on available records, the first contact with Professor Chubb was made by the Department on or around Friday 18 March 2011. Professor Chubb did not make an unsolicited expression of interest.