

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: COMET Funding

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2008, Page E42)

QUESTION No.: SI-33

Senator Eggleston—In regard to efficiency dividend, closure of regional laboratories and consolidation of Sydney facilities –

Senator Eggleston—Is CSIRO helping make up the deficit in funding through your COMET—Commercialising Emerging Technologies—program? Could you tell us a little about that?

Mr Whelan—The COMET program is run by the department.

Senator Eggleston—It is not a CSIRO program as such?

Mr Whelan—No.

Senator Abetz—Have there been immediate benefits by collaborations through the COMET funding?

Mr Whelan—Certainly. Where there are programs that the government offers through other portfolios and companies take advantage of that, then they use that to collaborate with CSIRO.

Senator Eggleston—Can you quantify that in any degree?

Mr Whelan—I could not do that now, but I could take it on notice.

ANSWER

The COMET program is accessed by companies directly. For the reason that CSIRO is not directly involved, CSIRO does not have figures on how many of CSIRO's partners and clients are also clients of the COMET program.