

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: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Chief Scientist Recruitment

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2008, E80)

QUESTION No.: SI-46

Senator ABETZ—Fair enough. Can I then put on notice: what is the budget of the office, how many staff does it have, what band are those staff in and how many applications were there for the position of Chief Scientist? In addition, could it be confirmed that this is a Public Service position? I do not need those questions answered now.

Mr Paterson—The answer to the last question is that it is not a Public Service position—that is, it is not an appointment under the Public Service Act but an appointment under a deed with the Commonwealth.

Senator ABETZ—So it is a separate deed, is it?

Mr Paterson—Yes.

Senator ABETZ—Thank you. That is very interesting.

Mr Paterson—It continues the pattern of previous appointments in relation to the Chief Scientist.

Senator ABETZ—I think, of itself, that might be a good position.

Mr Paterson—The total budget for the office for 2008-09 is \$1.294 million, probably closer to \$1.295 million, excluding the costs associated with the direct employment of the Chief Scientist. At present there are nine allocated staff: one EL2, four EL1s, three APS6s and one APS3.

Number of applications for the position of Chief Scientist remains unanswered.

ANSWER

There were 34 applications received for the position of Chief Scientist.