

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: Stem Cell Centre

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Boswell

QUESTION No.: SI-7

The Australian (6/9/08) also reported that “Australia’s bid to become a world leader in stem cell science has been plunged into turmoil by the mass resignation yesterday of the country’s premier research organisation in the field.” What action has been taken to restore Australia’s reputation as a world leader in stem cell science at the Australian Stem Cell Centre?

ANSWER

The press report is inaccurate. On 5 September 2008 a new three member interim Board was appointed and on 19 September the interim Board appointed an independent Chair. The Department understands the ASCC has sufficient funds to meet all of its financial commitments. The Interim Board is actively reviewing the Centre's Governance model to allow stakeholders and researchers to have a say in developing the Centre's strategic direction.