

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10
21 October 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Fellowships

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 21 October 2009, E4)

QUESTION No. : SI-16

Senator ABETZ -.....But you did apply under the International Science Linkages program and I understand you were successful to the tune of \$880,000. Are you at liberty to indicate to us in general terms how those funds will be expended and with whom, or with what organisation you intend to develop your international linkages—or should I say further develop your international linkages because I am sure you have many international linkages—under this particular program?

Dr Adrian Paterson – We will take that one on notice and provide you full details of the linkages, because I do not have the information immediately available.

ANSWER

ANSTO manages the Access to Major Research Facilities Programme (AMRFP) on behalf of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research. The AMFRP is open to Australian researchers in both public and private sectors, and enables access to major international research capabilities not available in Australia. Over 50 international facilities are covered under the AMRFP, predominantly across Europe, Asia and the United States. ANSTO operates two six-month funding rounds (July to December and January to June) for the AMRFP. Applicants must satisfy specific criteria to be eligible for funding, and most facilities covered under the AMRFP also require stringent peer review to gain access to the facility. In the event that the facility does not operate a peer review system or the access has been obtained through collaboration, a full proposal must be submitted for peer review in Australia.

Since 1990, AMRFP applicants have predominantly focussed their interest on facilities that advance Australian research in astronomy and physics. It is expected that this will continue over the next two years. In the financial year 2008-09, 167 individual researchers from 19 Australian research organisations utilised the AMRFP, with common destinations including the ISIS Spallation Neutron Source (United Kingdom), Institute Laue-Langevin [Neutron science] (France,) and the Keck Observatory (United States).

ANSTO operates this fund for the benefit of all Australian researchers. ANSTO scientists are eligible to apply for support under the AMFRP on the same basis as Australian scientists from other institutions.