

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
20 October 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Student sponsorships

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 20 October 2010, E23)

QUESTION NO: SI-13

Senator BUSHBY - Okay, not a problem. CSIRO is a partner of the Monash IITB Research Academy—is that correct?

Dr Clark - We have a number of partnerships with Monash. Can you give me a bit more detail?

Senator BUSHBY - I am talking in particular about how you sponsor IITB students from India to study in Australia.

Dr Clark - Yes we are a partner in that venture.

Senator BUSHBY - Can you explain how you identify the students for sponsorship? Do you run an application process? In which case, can you tell me how many applications you receive and how you sort through those?

Dr Clark - The process for studentship is managed by the chief executive of the IIT Bombay. There is a process of review, there is a selection committee and then the decision is made on students.

Senator BUSHBY - So you call for applications?

Dr Clark - We call for applications. There is a select committee which has representations from Monash and externally, and the process is managed by the chief executive of IIT Bombay.

Senator BUSHBY - How are the applications advertised? How do the Indian students know that—

Dr Clark - I do not have the details of the website for the applications, but I can certainly provide you the application process for that.

Senator BUSHBY - How many students have been awarded sponsorships in each year since it has been running?

Dr Clark - I can provide you that detail further.

Senator BUSHBY - I am interested particularly in seeing how recent negative publicity about Australia and India has impacted it, if at all.

Dr Clark - To my knowledge there has been very good attraction to that program and application.

Senator BUSHBY - What about the number of people applying? Could you also take that on notice?

Dr Clark - As I mentioned, I will give you all that detail.

Senator BUSHBY - Not just the people who are successful, but the number of people who apply as well.

Dr Clark - Not a problem.

ANSWER

The call for applications to the PhD program of the IITB-Monash Academy is made through the Academy website and through advertising campaigns in major national newspapers in India

including: *The Times of India*, *The Statesman*, *The Deccan Chronicle*, *Frontline*, and *The Hindu*. There are currently approximately 60 sponsored PhD students at the Academy who have commenced their candidatures between December 2007 and July 2010.

CSIRO was provided with approximate figures from the Academy on the total number of applications they received for the PhD program. There are two application rounds each year, in June and December. On average 1200-1800 expressions of interest are received for each round. From this group, 350-400 candidates are invited to submit a full application and 200-300 will typically do so. Approximately 90 of these applicants are then invited for interview from which 20-25 will be offered a sponsored place in the Program.