

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: AUSTRALIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL

TOPIC: Skin Cancer Research

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 20 October 2010, E32)

QUESTION No: SI-16

Senator Bushby—I was going to ask a question about skin cancer research, particularly as it applies to Tasmanian devils, if we have time for a quick answer.

CHAIR—Yes. It is very important.

Senator BUSHBY—I would just like an overview of the work in that area.

Prof. Sheil—Obviously I am not the expert in that area. Catherine Bell and her colleagues at the University of Sydney are. That is a very important and exciting project funded both by a Future Fellows Discovery Project and also linkage projects. It is an unbelievably important project and we are really proud of that one.

Senator BUSHBY—If you could take on notice to provide me with some more information about that and what it is doing, I would appreciate it.

Prof. Sheil—We would be happy to do that.

ANSWER

Acting Professor Katherine Belov and colleagues are the leading researchers in genetics of Tasmanian Devil facial tumour disease. Acting Professor Belov was awarded a Future Fellowship in 2009, and is also involved in two *Linkage Projects* and two *Discovery Projects*. This research represents an investment of \$2.1 million (GST free), and is part of a larger investment of \$13 million (GST free) over ten years in the areas of Tasmanian Devil facial tumour disease and skin cancer research. Further information is available on the ARC website www.arc.gov.au

Footnote: Please note a correction to the information provided at the hearing, as the reference to Catherine Bell should be Katherine Belov. Advice on this correction will be provided to the Secretariat for the Senate Standing Committee on Economics and will be reflected in the Official Hansard.