

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 NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Cyclotrons

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Heffernan

QUESTION No.: SI-32

In Answer to Question BI-39 (Written Question-Senator Heffernan), there are several collaborative arrangements listed. What will be the expected value in capital, funding or in-kind expected in 2010, 2011 and 2012 and what processes are established to ensure merit and return on investment.

ANSWER

As outlined in ANSTO's Corporate Plan 2010-2015, which has been provided to the Board and approved by the Minister for Innovation, Industry, Science & Research, Senator Carr, ANSTO indicates that it has a strategic priority to expand ANSTO's reach and contribution, exploiting landmark technologies. ANSTO will recognise its success by development of national networks and communities for:

- Cyclotrons
- Accelerator science and engineering
- Nuclear and nuclear engineering education

In this regard and noting the response to Budget Estimates question BI-39 (May 2010), in respect of our collaboration with the Charles Gardiner Hospital, ANSTO recently wrote to the Premier of Western Australia, the Hon Colin Barnett MEd MLA, outlining our interests in a collaboration and it has have received a very positive and supportive reply from the Premier. The next stage of development would be to progress to a term sheet in which the parties would establish processes to ensure merit and return on investment.

In relation to the agreement with the University of Sydney, this agreement vests under the National Imaging Facility initiative, which has independently determined the merit of and the benefits to Australia in making strategic investments in this infrastructure. It can be noted from these two examples that in each case there is a different timeline and indeed, on occasions, different processes that determine the merit and benefit of particular investments.

These arrangements support the Government's *Powering Ideas: the Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century*, and are intended to enhance Australia's research cyclotron capabilities and expertise, train nuclear medicine practitioners, and provide isotopes to the nuclear medicine community and the Australian research community.