

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: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: International Science

REFERENCE: Written Question–Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-68

In its election policy statements, the Government made a number of comments about international science. But there did not seem to be an indication of any funding for international science. Can you tell us how much funding the Government is providing for international science programs and policies over the forward estimates?

ANSWER

The Australian Government supports international science through a myriad of programs across Commonwealth Departments. In the Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio there are a number of programs that have an international science engagement focus. They include ARC grants; CSIRO's Flagship Collaboration Fund; the Cooperative Research Centres Program, the *Australia-India Strategic Research Fund* (AISRF) and the International Science Linkages (ISL) Program.

The AISRF, established in 2006, is Australia's single largest bilateral science and research fund. The Australian Government has committed \$65 million to the Fund with the Indian Government providing matching funding. The AISRF is already supporting over 70 joint research projects involving over 100 leading Australian and Indian universities and research organisations. The AISRF will continue to build a productive, long term scientific and technological partnership between Australia and India.

AISRF – Forward estimates (Administered) by Financial Year (\$ million)

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	TOTAL
\$9.668	\$8.781	\$10.466	\$8.778	\$37.693

The ISL Program, in existence since 2002, has fostered and supported Australia's government to government S&T relationships. Total expenditure of administered funds under the program is expected to be \$92.5 million by the time it terminates in June 2011. The Government is yet to make a decision about future funding. Its decision will be informed by an evaluation of the ISL Program and the House of Representatives Inquiry report "Australia's International Research Collaboration".

ISL Program – Forward estimates (Administered) by Financial Year (\$ million)

2010-11
\$12.323