

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012
19 October 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: RETURN ON PROJECTS

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: SI-55

Can you provide a project overview to include both targeted milestones and potential return on investment for these projects?

ANSWER

ANSTO engages in a range of projects with the intention of sharing expertise, resources and equipment. The projects are entered into for the potential to assist ANSTO with research into existing and new areas. For example, in the field of radiopharmaceutical production, ANSTO scientists have developed a new production system which reduces the level of manual handling of radioactive materials that scientists need to do when making injectable radiopharmaceuticals used for medical imaging. Less handling means safer, cheaper products which is good for patients and doctors alike. However, providing targeted milestones and a potential return on investment for these projects is difficult given research projects, by their nature, do not lend themselves to the same metrics as business ventures.