

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Comcare report – workplace bullying

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI-76

Questions have previously been asked on notice in relation to an employee who was the subject of the recent Comcare investigation that has prompted changes to CSIRO's workplace practices.

1. Can CSIRO confirm that the employee in question was told by their self-same manager on the 12th August 2010 that their position with the organisation was now surplus to CSIRO's operational requirements?
2. Can CSIRO confirm that on the 11 August 2010, Dr Clark forwarded an email from that employee to the very manager who was the subject of the employee's complaint?

ANSWER

1. The employee in question was informed on 12 August 2010 by the Chief of his Division that his position had been identified as potentially excess to the requirements of that Division. At that time it was usual practice in that Division for the Chief to personally inform senior staff members that they were potentially excess.
2. On 11 August 2010, the employee sent an email to Dr Clark regarding a range of matters, including querying whether he had to attend a meeting on dates that had been proposed by the manager (being the Chief of his Division). The proposed meeting related to a potential redundancy that the said manager was responsible for notifying the staff member of and on that basis the email was referred by Dr Clark's office to the manager for response on that same day.