

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3

Output Group: 3.1 – Research Infrastructure

DEST Question No. E726_04

Senator Carr asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 21.

Question:

In terms of the research reviews:

- a) What date were the reviews given to the Minister? Were they late?
- b) Who was involved in the research reviews, including from DEST?
- c) What were the cost of the research reviews?

Answer:

Research Reviews

See attached summaries regarding the research reviews.

Information relating to the costs of the reviews was tabled previously.

REVIEW:

National Research Infrastructure Taskforce

Period of Review: 1 July 03 to 7 November 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

To develop a National Research Infrastructure Strategic Framework to inform government investment in research infrastructure for universities and publicly funded research agencies.

Support Provided by DEST:

Secretariat support

Members of Committee/Taskforce:

The Taskforce was chaired by Dr Mike Sargent AM. Taskforce members were:

- Professor Lawrence Cram, Australian Research Council
- Dr Michael Barber, Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)
- Professor Anne Edwards, representing the Australian Vice-Chancellors' Committee
- Dr Phil McFadden, representing the National Academies Forum
- Professor Chris Fell, representing the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies
- Professor Malcolm Gillies, representing the Council for the Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences
- Professor Laureate Adrienne Clarke, University of Melbourne
- Professor Max Bennett, University of Sydney
- Dr Evan Arthur, Department of Education, Science and Training
- Ms Mary Murnane, Department of Health and Ageing
- Dr Alan Pettigrew, National Health and Medical Research Council
- Ms Tricia Berman, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
- Mr Michael Sutton, Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts

When was the review given to the Minister?

Due: 30 October 03

Overview and Key Findings Provided: 31 October 03

Report Provided: 7 November 03

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$296,000

REVIEW:

Knowledge and Innovation Evaluation

Period of Review: 1 June 03 to 17 November 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

To provide a comprehensive evaluation of the effectiveness of the *Knowledge and Innovation* reforms to ensure that the policy framework for Australia's competitive research funding is effective.

A major focus of the evaluation was on the operation of the research funding mechanisms; Research Training Scheme (RTS), Institutional Grants Scheme (IGS), and the Research Infrastructure Block Grants Scheme (RIBG). In examining these schemes, the evaluation assessed the validity of current research performance indicators, their weightings in the performance formulae, their effect on particular disciplines, universities and student groups, and the effectiveness and impact of the current transition arrangements.

Support Provided by DEST:

Secretariat support

Members of Committee/Taskforce:

The Evaluation's External Reference Group was chaired by Professor Chris Fell and the members were:

- Professor Richard Oliver – The Australian Centre for Necrotrophic Fungal Pathogens, Murdoch University
- Professor Deryck Schreuder – President of Australian Vice-Chancellors Committee
- Mr Greg Harper – Deputy CEO, Australian Research Council
- Professor Kerry Cox – Vice-Chancellor, University of Ballarat

When was the review given to the Minister?

Due: 30 October 03

Executive Summary and Recommendations Provided: 3 November 03

Report Provided: 17 November 03

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$292,000

REVIEW:

Review of Closer Collaboration between Universities and Major Publicly Funded Research Agencies

Period of Review: 1 July 03 to 1 December 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

To examine the scope for greater collaboration between universities and major Publicly Funded Research Agencies (PFRAs) including the extent to which such developments can improve research outcomes, achieve more efficient and effective use of resources and strengthen institutional performance.

Support Provided by DEST:

Secretariat support

Members of Committee/Taskforce:

The Collaboration review was chaired by Mr Donald McGauchie, and the members were:

Professor Suzanne Cory – Director, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research
Professor Sir Graeme Davies - Vice-Chancellor of the University of London
Professor Peter Hoj - Director of the Australian Wine Research Institute
Mr Kevin Jarry - Businessman, former banking industry executive
Mr Kenneth Peacock - Businessman, former aerospace industry executive
Professor Millicent Poole - Vice-Chancellor of Edith Cowan University

When was the review given to the Minister?

Due: 30 October 2003

Delivered: 1 December 2003.

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$285,000

REVIEW:

Mapping of Science and Innovation

Period of Review: November 02 to December 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

To take stock of the state of Australian science, technology and innovation by developing an overview in terms of resources, players, linkages and performance of Australia's science and innovation activities across the public and private sectors.

Support Provided by DEST:

A taskforce located within DEST undertook the development of the Mapping Science and Innovation report. The taskforce was led by DEST and was comprised of officers from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources (DITR), the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts (DCITA), the Defence Science and Technology Organisation (DSTO) and the Australian Research Council (ARC).

A Reference Group oversaw and advised on the work of the taskforce.

Members of the Reference Group:

The Reference Group was chaired by Dr Robin Batterham, Chief Scientist and members were:

- Mr Roger Allen, Executive Director, Allen and Buckeridge
- Mr Tim Besley AC, Chair, Australian Research Council, ex-officio PMSEIC member
- Professor Suzanne Cory AC, Director, Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research, also CSIRO Board member
- Dr Patricia Crook AO, Managing Director of Dynek Pty Ltd and President of Business SA
- Dr Sandra Eades, Member of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Council
- Professor Graham Farquhar, Group Leader, Research School of Biological Sciences, ANU
- Professor Paul Haddad, Deputy Head of Chemistry, University of Tasmania, ATSE Fellow
- Professor Stephen Hall, Director, Australian Institute of Marine Science
- Dr Bruce Hobbs, Chief Scientist
- Professor Wyatt R (Rory) Hume, Vice-Chancellor UNSW
- Ms Catherine Livingstone, Chair of CSIRO Board, Chair of Australian Business Foundation
- Mr Greg Maddock, CEO of Energex
- Dr Jim Peacock AC, President, Australian Academy of Science, ex-officio PMSEIC member
- Ms Heather Ridout, Deputy Chief Executive and Executive Director, Public Policy and Communications, Australian Industry Group
- Professor Beverley Ronalds, currently Director, School of Oil and Gas Engineering, UWA, Chief of CSIRO Petroleum Resources
- Professor Nick Saunders, Chair, National Health and Medical Research Council, ex-officio PMSEIC member
- Mr Peter Wills AC, former Chairman, Australian Research Council
- Dr John Zillman AO, President, Australian Academy of Technological Sciences & Engineering and represents ATSE on PMSEIC
- Mr Anthony Bates, Chair, Rural R&D Chairs Committee
- Ms Bridget Jackson, Chair, Rural R&D Chairs Committee

When was the review given to the Minister?

Due: December 2003

Delivered: 24 October 2003

Released: 28 November 2003

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$1,232,000

REVIEW:

Backing Australia's Ability Evaluation

Period of Review: August 03 to October 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

To obtain views of a representative range of stakeholders about the performance of the *Backing Australia's Ability* initiative and to take stock of achievements and lessons to date.

Support Provided by DEST:

DEST commissioned and oversaw the project

When was the review given to the Minister?

The Minister was briefed on the report on 10 October 2003.

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$34,000

REVIEW:

Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) Evaluation

Period of Review: February 03 to July 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

The evaluation:

- assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of the CRC Programme in meeting its objectives and made recommendations for any improvements required; and
- assessed the clarity and appropriateness of the objectives for the CRC Programme and made recommendations about possible future strategic directions for the programme including in relation to changes to key programme design features and any associated change management strategies required.

The evaluation was undertaken by Howard Partners Pty Ltd. The consultants were selected in response to a Request for Tender (RFT PRN 02771).

Support Provided by DEST:

The management of this evaluation was undertaken as part of the normal duties of several departmental staff.

Members of Committee/Taskforce:

The CRC Evaluation Steering Group was chaired by Mr Rod Manns (DEST) and members were:

- Dr Tony Peacock, nominee of the Cooperative Research Centres Association
- Professor Ron MacDonald, Deputy Vice Chancellor (Research), The University of Newcastle
- Mr Ron Jansen, Manager, Business Competitiveness, Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources
- Mr Richard Bridge, DEST
- Dr Geoffrey Vaughan, Chairman, CRC Committee.

When was the review given to the Minister?

Due: 30 July 03

Delivered: 6 August 03

Published: 22 August 03

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$185,000

REVIEW:

Development of National Research Priorities

Period of Review: 13 February 02 to 28 November 03

Purpose/Objective of Review:

To provide a vision of where research can contribute to Australia's future prosperity and well being, and help to align our nation's research effort in these key areas.

Support Provided by DEST:

A taskforce was established within the department for this review.

Members of Committee/Taskforce:

A consultative panel appointed by the Minister for Science. The panel was chaired by Dr Robin Batterham, Chief Scientist and comprised:

- Dr John Keniry - Past President, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry.
- Mr Stuart Beil - CEO Universal Carbon Exchange (UCX) and CRC for Greenhouse Accounting Advisory Council
- Mr Helmut Pekarek - Chairman of the Board, Managing Director of Siemens Ltd
- Professor Janice Burn - Foundation Professor of Information Systems, School of Management Information Systems at Edith Cowan University.
- Professor Chris Fell - President of the Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS)
- Professor Leon Mann - President of the Australian Academy of Social Sciences
- Associate Professor Melissa Little - Sylvia and Charles Viertel Senior Research Fellow, University of Queensland's Institute for Molecular Bioscience
- Professor Graham Farquhar - Group Leader at the Research School of Biological Sciences

There was also an Expert Advisory Committee chaired by Dr Jim Peacock - President of the Australian Academy of Science and the members were:

Dr Robin Batterham - Chief Scientist

Mr John Boshier - Chief Executive, Institution of Engineers, Australia

Ms Sharon Brown - Strategic Business Manager, Alphawest

Professor Suzanne Cory - Professor of Medical Biology, University of Melbourne

Professor Chris Fell - President, Federation of Australian Scientific and Technological Societies (FASTS)

Professor Malcolm Gillies - Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Education), Australian National University

Professor Terry Hughes - Inaugural Director, Centre for Coral Reef Biodiversity at James Cook University in Queensland

Professor Leon Mann - Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne

Professor Sue O'Reilly – Director, ARC National Key Centre for Geochemical Evolution

Mr Helmut Pekarek - Managing Director, Siemens Ltd

Associate Professor Michelle Simmons - ARC Queen Elizabeth II Research Fellow, University of New South Wales

When was the review given to the Minister?

The Chief Scientist submitted a report to the Minister for Science on 12 July 2002 on the outcomes of the consultation process. It was submitted on time. The report is available on DEST's website.

Dr Peacock, Chair of the Expert Advisory Committee, provided a report to the Minister for Science on 23 October 2002. The report was also on time. National Research Priorities were announced by the Prime Minister in December 2002.

Cost of Taskforce as at 31 January 04 (Expensed by DEST): \$1,260,000