

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E772_04

Senator Carr asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 96/97.

Question:

Dr Sandland: The firm that put together this survey, ISR, is highly professional and benchmarks us against a number of international research agencies. In terms of the table it put together, there are many results in that table that are almost certainly not statistically significant. So we have in our own documentation a number of results that are statistically significant, and therefore, we cannot possibly interpret this table on the fly without having that analysis to back it up.

Dr Garrett: Would it be appropriate for us to take this data and come back to you with an explanation?

Senator Carr: When senior officers tell me that 19 out of the 21 topics registering negative results is not statistically significant, I say it would be very good for you to give me an analysis.

Senator Carr: The question arises as to whether or not this information is accurate, and you will come back to me and you will advise me as to whether this information is inaccurate.

Senator Carr: but I would like to know if the information contained in this report that I have tabled here is accurate or inaccurate. You may well argue the toss about its presentation, but I want to know: is this raw data accurate or inaccurate?

Dr Sandland: We can provide that information for you by checking each datum with the data from the *Insight* official analysis.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Insight Poll

The table of data presented at the February Senate Estimates hearing is not part of any official data distributed by CSIRO in relation to the outcomes of the Staff Survey. Whilst most of the data presented in the tabled document do appear to have come from Survey data files, they are presented in a manner which, without the appropriate context, could misinform.

The analysis prepared by the independent international organisation which conducted the survey for CSIRO showed the statistical significance of the individual deviations from the CSIRO norm. It also compared these to benchmarks of previous years' findings and the international R & D comparison group. This facilitated ready interpretation of the data.

The categories listed at the top of the table in the document presented are the category groupings for questions in the Survey. There are 158 individual questions across these category groupings.

The data in the body of the table (i.e. relating to the Divisions named) represent deviations from the CSIRO norm for each category. The “total” and “neg scores” columns in this document are not part of the CSIRO analysis.

The last seven row headings represent different groups within CSIRO Forestry and Forest Products (CFFP). The data in these rows are deviations from the CFFP norms. It should be noted that the figures provided for the “AP” row were not provided in any analysis prepared by the consultants. The number of respondents in that group was less than the presentation cut-off adopted by the consultants for the protection of privacy, and furthermore, the calculations in this row are based on the false assumption that the sum of the deviations in each category should be zero.