

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E972_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Clause 2.1.6 of CSIRO's Financial Directions: procurement of goods and services contains the imperative that the delegate must "be satisfied that real or apparent conflicts of interest have been addressed before any order is placed. The approval and all supporting information must be documented and filed." In light of the CEO's admission that Mr Dean was a personal friend of his, please provide the approval and documentation that would have under these circumstances accompanied all of Mr Dean's consultancies?

Was such approval and documentation undertaken in relation to any of Mr Dean's consultancies?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Engagement of Groman Consulting Group

Dr Garrett's professional and personal relationship with Mr Dean was known to CSIRO prior to the engagement of Mr Dean. The delegate responsible for engaging Mr Dean for each of his separate assignments was responsible for assessing conflict of interest issues. No conflicts of interest were identified in the Registers of Consultants maintained by each Division/Business unit for any of Mr Dean's assignments. In addition, the process of formalising CSIRO's Preferred Supplier List in August 2002 addressed real or apparent conflicts of interest from the supplier perspective. (See also answers to questions E974_04 and E976_04.)