

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E976_04

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

Refers to DEST Questions E578_04 and E574_04

Referring to the requirements of the Financial Directions, including the need to address apparent conflicts of interest, it appears that while Peter O'Keefe is listed as the commissioning officer for Mr Dean's first two consultancies (E578), the answer to E574 confirms that Mr Dean "was appointed on the initial recommendation of Dr Garrett." Given Dr Garrett's acknowledgement of his relationship with Mr Dean and the fact that at least one of these consultancies was worth \$100,000, please provide all details and full documentation of the process used to satisfy all the requirements of CSIRO Financial Directions. Please also provide evidence that this was "addressed before any order was placed."

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Engagement of Groman Consulting Group

With respect to the Ian Dean (Groman Consulting Group) assignments commissioned by Mr O'Keefe, the issue of conflict of interest was raised with Dr Garrett by senior officers before these assignments were entered into.

This advice was the subject of review by Dr Garrett who formed the view that this matter could be addressed by line managers other than himself assuming responsibility for these engagements. (See also answer to question E972_04.)

These matters were the subject of subsequent CSIRO Audit Committee review (August 2002). Following discussion with Dr Garrett and other relevant members of the CSIRO Executive, the Audit Committee was satisfied with the rationale provided by Dr Garrett for proceeding with the engagement of Mr Dean.