

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** CSIRO  
**Output Group:** CSIRO

#### DEST Question No. E492\_05

Senator Carr asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 23.

#### Question:

*Senator Carr* - "I have been advised that at the last round of hearings you had with you two media unit journalists, Mr Birchfield and Ms Capp. Is that right?"

It has been put to me that two of the journalists who were sent down by your media unit - and I have named the two - had the instructions: 'Eyeball and intimidate any reporter there, especially Aban Contractor from the *Sydney Morning Herald*, to dissuade them from writing adverse coverage of the organisation' Did that happen?

*Dr Sandland* - I am certainly not aware of any such instruction being given.

*Senator Carr* - Are you not aware of it?

*Dr Sandland* - I am certainly not aware of it.

*Senator Carr* - Will you take that on notice for me and make further inquiries? If that is true, it is a pretty serious proposition.

*Dr Sandland* - We can take that on notice.

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Communications CSIRO Media Journalists at June 2004 Estimates*

Two journalists from the media unit attended Senate Estimates in June 2004. They were there to support the Executive in case of media enquires following CSIRO's appearance before the Committee. They were not given instructions to "eyeball and intimidate" any reporter attending the hearing. Indeed they were encouraged to offer assistance to those journalists interested in the hearing and provide them with further information if requested.