

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### DEST Question No. E503\_05

Senator Carr asked on 16 February 2005, EWRE Hansard page 41.

#### Question:

What was the cost of sending 80 communications staff to Couran Cove on South Stradbroke Island in September last year?

*Dr Garrett* - I do not have the figure.

*Dr Sandland* - I do not have the figure, but I know that a reduced rate was obtained for that workshop.

*Senator Carr* - Who attended, how long did the exercise last, what was the cost and did any non-communications staff attend? You can take it on notice."

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Communications - Couran Cove Workshop*

70 participants attended the Communicators Conference in 2004.

The participants were made up of:  
Communication Managers and Officers from Divisions and Flagships  
Communication Managers and Officers from Corporate Communications  
Representatives from CSIRO Publishing  
Representatives from CSIROSEC/ Education.

The conference was held over two days.

The cost of hosting the conference at Couran Cove was \$31,360 (excluding travel). This included all meals, accommodation, delegate/conference package, room hire, workshop costs and activities.

In choosing a suitable conference venue, 18 Queensland based venues were considered with only 4 meeting the selection criteria required which included: conference room facilities able to hold the number of participants and break out rooms for concurrent sessions. Conference room costs (if included or additional), affordable accommodation, affordable delegate packages (which would include the costs of refreshments - morning tea, lunch etc).

CSIRO negotiated a competitive rate with Couran Cove thus allowing the conference to be hosted there at significantly less cost than other Brisbane/ Gold Coast based facilities. When compared to a Sydney based conference facility Couran Cove was similarly priced.

Peter May, Executive Director, People and Culture, attended on the morning of day one as a guest speaker.

