

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E749_05

Senator Carr provided in writing.

Question:

What has been the growth in costs attributable to the growth across the organisation in business development and commercialisation staff since 2001/2002?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Business Development and Commercialisation - Growth in staff costs

CSIRO's total enterprise business development and commercialisation expenses (including legal) are estimated to be \$33 million in 2004/05. On an enterprise level, approximately 71% of the business development and commercialisation effort in CSIRO is conducted in Divisions.

CSIRO compiles information on its business development and commercialisation activities as part of the CSIRO Research Commercialisation Survey. The Survey data provides figures for the staff effort on business development and commercialisation activities in the corporate BD&C group and divisions. An estimate of the rate of growth in enterprise-wide business development and commercialisation expenses since 2001/02 may be extrapolated from this staff effort data, which is that CSIRO's expenses have increased by approximately 30% over this 3-year period.

Expense figures are available for the corporate group from 2001/02 to 2003/04. In 2001/02, CSIRO expenditure on the corporate Business Development and Commercialisation (including salary and non-salary components) was \$6.332 million and in 2003/04 expenditure by the group was \$13.912 million, an increase of \$7.580 million as compared to 2001/02. This increase was a result of the strategic decision taken by CSIRO to bolster CSIRO's skill base in the business development and commercialisation domain to capture maximum benefit (for both public good and commercial outcomes) for Australia and CSIRO from the intellectual property generated by CSIRO's scientists. The expansion of the corporate BD&C group effort during the 2002 - 2005 period was part funded by redirection of a \$13.5 million allocation of funds, that had previously been committed for investment by CSIRO in three venture funds, to business development and commercialisation activities more consistent with the CSIRO Strategic Plan.