

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### DEST Question No. E819\_05

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

CSIRO - Appointment of Donna Staunton

Did CSIRO verify Ms Staunton's claims, before appointing her to a permanent position in CSIRO, that she resigned from AMP? If not, why not? If yes, please provide details of this.

Did CSIRO, during the appointment process for Ms Staunton, check whether AMP knew of and approved the contents of her letter of 20 December 2000, in which she accepted that nicotine is addictive and that smoking is a major cause of preventable illness in Australian society, at the time of its issue and did CSIRO check whether AMP knew of and approved of her use of AMP official letterhead and quotation of her AMP position? If not, why not?

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

*Office of the Deputy Chief Executive - Appointment of Donna Staunton*

Ms Staunton was appointed as a result of a search recruitment process conducted by Korn/Ferry International. Reference checks were conducted by Korn/Ferry International prior to the appointment of Ms Staunton.

Ms Staunton's resignation from AMP was confirmed by the then CEO Mr Paul Batchelor.

CSIRO, through its recruitment process was concerned with assessing the skills and qualifications of the role and as a result conducted referee checks focused on the selection criteria at hand.

CSIRO did not enquire as to the content of a letter sent from Donna Staunton on 20 December 2000. The letter in question outlined Ms Staunton's personal position in relation to nicotine. The use of AMP letterhead was not something that was raised as a result of referee checks.