

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: ANSTO
Output Group: ANSTO

DEST Question No. E1008_07

Senator Carr asked on 14 February 2007, EWRE Hansard page 17.

Question:

Medical Isotopes

Senator CARR— What is the cost of importing those?

Dr Smith— I should add that now the HIFAR is closed we are also importing iodine-131. I would have to take on notice the exact cost of that transition because obviously HIFAR has only been shut for two weeks and I have not seen the figures of how that is running.

Senator CARR— Will you give me a cost on the three isotopes that are being imported?

Answer:

ANSTO has provided the following response:

Medical Isotopes

There are four isotopes that are planned to be produced in the OPAL reactor that are currently being imported while OPAL commissioning is completed. This includes Molybdenum-99 as discussed in evidence given to the committee (EWRE Hansard page 16); Yttrium-90 and Iodine-131 as noted by Dr Smith in his evidence (EWRE Hansard page 17); and Chromium-51. Dr Smith also indicated that ANSTO intended to import Samarium-153; however, ANSTO is currently unable to find a reliable overseas supplier of Samarium.

The cost of the four isotopes that are currently being imported are averaging as follows:

Molybdenum-99	\$93000 AUD per week
Yttrium-90	\$37440 AUD per week
Chromium-51	\$900 AUD per week
Iodine-131	\$25333 AUD per week