

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### DEST Question No. E937\_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

CSIRO total wellbeing diet

Has CSIRO responded to various criticisms of the diet and the CSIRO's involvement in it in *Nature*, including:

- a. Rosemary's Stanton's claims: "There is a bias towards towards the sponsor's product which is not justified by the results of their research."
- b. UK nutritionist Patrick Holford's claim that the Diet "is dangerous long term" and that it could "elevate the risks of breast and prostate caner, stress the kidneys and adversely affect bone mass."
- c. Claims in the editorial of the same edition of *Nature* that: CSIRO is a nationally trusted institution, and that that carries responsibilities. Allowing the CSIRO name to be used like this could taint CSIRO's reputation.

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *CSIRO Total Wellbeing Diet*

CSIRO has responded to criticism of the *Total Wellbeing Diet*. The authors have responded to critics in a number of publications and in the media including:

- *Nature*;
- The *CSIRO Total Wellbeing Diet Book 2*;
- Letters to Editors of major daily newspapers; and
- interviews with various broadcast media outlets.

The authors also prepared and distributed a review paper titled *Red Meat Intake, Lifestyle Factors and Colon Cancer Risk* which addresses criticism of protein based diets.