

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E215_04

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2003.

Question:

What action has been taken on one recommendation directed specifically toward CSIRO and similar agencies - that CSIRO provide scholarships in field sciences for indigenous women? How quickly do you believe that you could implement that reform?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Women in Science

Given the low representation of indigenous Australians in the workforce, CSIRO does not believe that there is a case for differential treatment within this group based on gender. CSIRO has had a scheme in place for many years, offering scholarships to young indigenous men and women in Years 11 and 12.

A new initiative called the CSIRO Indigenous Work Experience Program was launched earlier this year and was recognised recently at the 2003 Victorian Excellence & Leadership in Diversity Awards. This program is aimed at providing indigenous students the opportunity to gain work experience in CSIRO. The program is being promoted via links with indigenous communities and school visits.