

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E225_04

Senator Carr asked on 4 June 2003.

Question:

- (a) Can you confirm that while job losses continue across the organisation, the number of business development and commercialisation positions increased by 14% in the past eighteen months?
- (b) What is the projected growth in such positions across the organisation for the next financial year?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Business Development and Commercialisation Staff Positions

- (a) The implication drawn from the assertion that “job losses continue across the organisation” is wrong. Any proactive and vibrant research organisation has some regular turn-over in staff. Over the last 12 months, net staff numbers have grown by about 250 (the vast majority in the science area) - from 6390 to 6640.

In the next 12 months, we are expecting to continue to hire staff to work in new areas, and to redeploy staff from current projects to new opportunities across the entire organisation. There will also be some redundancies reflecting changing priorities. However, overall staff numbers are expected to remain relatively constant over the coming year.

Turning to business development and commercialisation staffing, the CSIRO organisation-wide effort in business development and commercialisation activity was at the level of 135.6 EFTs (full time equivalents) in 2000/01 according to the 2000 CSIRO/ARC Commercialisation survey results. From the CSIRO Commercialisation survey for 2001/02, the effort for that year was 153.1 EFTs. These EFT figures are actual effort, and include full time and part time effort conducted by business development and commercialisation staff as well as by research management and research scientist staff and include both Divisions and the Corporate group. The level of effort as at December 2002 was at 154.4 EFTs, which is a 14% increase over the 18 months period July 2001 to December 2002. As at December 2002, this represented just 2.6% of the overall CSIRO staff complement.

- (b) The CSIRO-wide effort in business development and commercialisation activity for the 2002/03 year is presently estimated to be 176.4 EFTs, with the actual effort to be determined as part of the CSIRO Commercialisation survey for 2002/03 that is to be conducted during the following 12 months. The projected effort for the 2003/04 year is approximately 188 EFTs; this increase of 11.6 EFTs (or 6.6%) reflecting the full

year impact of appointments made during the 2002/03 year and, again, consistent with the implementation of objectives defined in the Strategic Action Plan.