

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E259_04

Senator Campbell asked on 4 June 2003, EWRE Hansard page 345

Question:

Senator Campbell : Is it possible, Mr Whelan, to give us the figures for the growth in research in those four key areas for five-year periods over the past 20 years?

Mr Whelan : I have the data back to 1992-93. Would you like me to read it now or shall I provide it to you?

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Senator Campbell : Take it on notice and provide us with the documentation.

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Four areas of research effort - change since 1992

CSIRO Distribution of Research Effort by Type of Activity

TOA	1992/93	1993/94	1994/95	1995/96	1996/97	1997/98	1998/99	1999/00	2000/01	2001/02
Applied Research	48.6%	49.1%	48.4%	51.7%	51.3%	49.2%	48.0%	48.4%	48.7%	46.6%
Experimental Development	14.0%	14.0%	12.9%	11.9%	12.4%	16.0%	15.8%	15.5%	14.5%	17.5%
Pure Basic Research	3.4%	3.4%	5.1%	4.4%	3.6%	5.2%	5.8%	4.2%	5.0%	6.8%
Strategic Basic Research	34.0%	33.5%	33.7%	32.0%	32.7%	29.6%	30.4%	32.0%	31.8%	29.1%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Definitions: Australian Bureau of Statistics, Australian Standard Research Classification

Pure basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge, without looking for long-term benefits other than the advancement of knowledge.

Strategic basic research is experimental and theoretical work undertaken to acquire new knowledge, directed into specified broad areas in the expectation of useful discoveries. It provides the broad base of knowledge necessary for the solution of recognised practical problems.

Applied research is original work undertaken primarily to acquire new knowledge with a specific application in view, either to determine possible uses for the findings of basic research or to determine new ways of achieving some specific and predetermined objectives.

Experimental development is systematic work, using existing knowledge gained from research or practical experience that is directed to producing new materials, products or devices, to installing new processes, systems and services, or to improving substantially those already produced or installed.