

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

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

#### DEST Question No. E177\_06

Senator Carr asked on 1 June 2005, EWRE Hansard page 73.

#### Question:

**Senator Carr:** *Re CSIRO's Flagship collaboration fund* What are the conditions for the allocations of the money? Are you able to point me to any guidelines?

**Dr Garrett:** As Dr Sandland has indicated, we have circulated this documentation, and we will be happy to provide you with a copy.

**Senator Carr:** Thanks you. ....

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *CSIRO's Flagship Collaboration Fund*

The three elements of the Flagship Collaboration Fund are:

- the Flagship Collaborative Program (which provides funding for Flagship projects and Flagship clusters);
- Flagship Visiting Fellowships; and
- Flagship Postgraduate Scholarships.

#### Flagship Projects

Under the Flagship Collaborative Program, funding will be provided to support specific research projects which have outcomes and deliverables relevant to Flagship objectives. The projects will usually be funded for less than one year at a minimum of \$100,000 and can either stem from ideas generated from within the Flagships (*solicited projects*), or from new and innovative ideas which may originate from outside organisations (*unsolicited projects*). Access to project funding is restricted to universities.

#### Flagship Clusters

Flagship clusters will also be funded under the Flagship Collaborative Program to support a larger scale of activity, with an emphasis on people and partnerships working on streams of research relevant to Flagships. Flagship clusters will be funded at a minimum level of \$1 million over three years with matching co-investment by the partners. Cluster funding is available to universities and publicly funded research agencies.

#### Flagship Visiting Fellowships

Flagship Visiting Fellowships will be made available for Australian based and overseas academics to work for up to six months in CSIRO on projects directly relevant to Flagships.

## **Flagship Postgraduate Scholarships**

Flagship Postgraduate Scholarships are available for high quality students eligible to enrol in a PhD at an Australian university. Students would normally be expected to have gained an Australian Postgraduate Award (APA) or equivalent University Postgraduate Award (UPA). Top-up scholarships valued at about \$7,000 per annum will be the norm, but in some cases full scholarships valued at \$25,000 per annum may be offered.

### **Selection criteria**

The overarching principles for the allocation of funds from the contestable pool are that the funds must support the directions of the Flagships, and that proposed activity must align with their strategic goals and outcomes.

Project, cluster and fellowship applications will be assessed on:

- Relevance to the work of the Flagship and achievement of the Flagship's goals;
- Novelty of the proposed approach or work program;
- Distinctiveness of the proposed science capability; and
- Expertise and track record of the research staff/proposed fellow.

Postgraduate scholarship applications will be assessed on:

- Quality and relevance of the proposed project;
- Alignment with the work of the Flagship and achievement of the Flagship's goals; and
- Track record: course marks, conference papers, presentations, publications (student must have or expect to gain 1st class Honours or equivalent and receive an Australian Postgraduate Award).

### **Guidelines**

Copies of the guidelines for the three components of the fund are at Attachments 1-3. These are also available from the CSIRO website at [www.csiro.au/Flagships/CollaborationFund](http://www.csiro.au/Flagships/CollaborationFund).