

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2007-2008 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome 5 – Science, Research and Innovation

DEST Question No. E072_08

Senator Carr asked on 30 May 2007, EWRE Hansard page 106.

Question:

Senator CARR—There were 15 facilities announced by the government in 2001 under this program. Are they all continuing other than the neuroscience project?

Ms Lansdown—No. I am not certain about the status of all of them. I guess what I can tell you is the ones that will receive ongoing funding as part of an NCRIS capability. There are five of them that I am aware of. That is not to say that some of the other MNRFs are not continuing. It is just that they are not receiving ongoing Commonwealth funding.

Ms Paul—We need to offer that on notice.

Answer:

Major National Research Facilities

All fifteen facilities funded under the Major National Research Facilities (MNRF) Programme over the period 2001-02 to 2005-06 are still continuing, including the National Neuroscience Facility. Funding under the MNRF Programme ceased in 2005-06.

The following MNRFs have been incorporated into the Investment Plans for the first 9 National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy (NCRIS) capability areas and will continue to receive financial support under the NCRIS Programme:

- Australian Proteome Analysis Facility – funded under “Evolving Biomolecular Platforms and Informatics”
- Australian Genome Research Facility – funded under “Evolving Biomolecular Platforms and Informatics”
- Australian Phenomics Facility – funded under “Integrated Biological Systems”
- Australian Synchrotron Research Program – funding under NCRIS capability “Characterisation”
- Nanostructural Analysis Network Organisation – funded under “Characterisation”
- The Bandwidth Foundry – funded under “Fabrication”
- Gemini and SKA – Australia's Astronomy Future – funded under “Optical and Radio Astronomy”
- Australian Computational Earth Systems Simulator – funded under “Structure and Evolution of the Australian Continent”
- Australian National Seismic Imaging Resource* – funded under Structure and Evolution of the Australian Continent”

In addition, the National Neuroscience Facility is involved in discussions on an NCRIS Investment Plan that is still being developed for a further capability area.

* Note: This facility was funded under the first round of MNRF funding in 1995.