

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### DEST Question No. E575\_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

#### Question:

Did Mr Dean subsequently undertake further consulting tasks in learning and development for CSIRO between July 2001 and June 2002?

How many?

What was the value of these, individually and collectively?

Were competitive bids sought before this work was awarded to Mr Dean?

Where would I find a reference to these consultancies: in the Annual Report; on your web page, where?

If these are not readily accessible, how is CSIRO accountable for this expenditure?

#### Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Consultancies*

Yes. In addition to the contract in 2001 (see DEST Question No. E574\_04), Mr Dean was engaged by CSIRO Corporate People Development for one further contract in 2001/02 for 55 consulting days between February 2002 and June 2002 to support the implementation of the new L&D plan and to conduct specific training programs. He was engaged on the basis of his performance and feedback around the contributions he had made in the first contract.

At an average daily consulting rate of \$1,405, the total consulting fees involved was \$77,308. Including reimbursement of \$15,137 for overseas travel (2 return trips from South Africa) the total average daily rate was \$1,680. In addition, Mr Dean received \$1,280 for some subsistence and minor travel expenses. CSIRO also paid directly for accommodation and related local travel expenses (site visits) incurred as part of the consultancy at a cost of approximately \$8,890. Total direct cost of consultancy project approximately \$102,600.

No competitive bids were sought for this contract because the delegate was satisfied that Mr Dean had demonstrated "value for money" through his initial engagement in 2001 (see DEST Question Nos. E571\_04 and E573\_04 for principles of CSIRO Procurement Policy).

Details of consultants engaged are not reported in the CSIRO Annual Report. CSIRO, as a CAC Act agency is not required to report on consultants engaged.

The CSIRO Executive is however currently reviewing the information gathering and management reporting requirements for information on consultants.

Although there is no specific external reporting requirement in respect of consultancies, the procurement of goods and services by CSIRO staff members is subject to standard internal controls, including authorisation by approved delegates and the CSIRO internal audit function. CSIRO is also subject to audits by the ANAO.