

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E608_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

- a) What has been the basis of CSIRO's \$35 million investment in BMI?
- b) When did that commence?
- c) What is the explanation for no investment during 2002-03?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Joint Ventures – Biomolecular Research Institute (BRI)

[Please note that we have taken the reference to BMI as meaning BRI.]

- a) During 1990 – 2000, CSIRO provided grants to BRI Ltd under joint funding arrangements between CSIRO, SIRF and BRI Ltd mainly in the form of in-kind contributions. The purpose of CSIRO's support of BRI was to enable the establishment and maintenance of a high level Australian research facility with critical mass in the field of structural biology, particularly as applied in the medical/pharmaceutical field. The funding was provided by CSIRO by way of a grant under a funding agreement and it was not intended that CSIRO receive a financial return from this funding arrangement.
- b) 1990.
- c) Pursuant to the conditions of the Funding Agreement, CSIRO's support of BRI was reviewed in 1999 and a decision was made that CSIRO would provide support to enable BRI to continue its operations up until December 2000 but would not continue to provide support thereafter. During 2000, the Board of BRI Ltd decided that it should restructure its operations with effect from December 2000. As a result of this decision by BRI, no CSIRO contributions (such as CSIRO staff) were made to BRI during 2002-03.