

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E613_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

- a) Could you direct me to the section of your new strategic plan that addresses research training?
- b) See page 43, under "Success measure(s): One of your own measures is "Supervision of Masters/PhD students." How does that stack up when the number has fallen for the past two years, and CSIRO now supervises about 26% fewer PhD students than it did five years ago?
- c) What specific strategies do you have to increase this number? What performance targets have been set in this respect?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Supervision of students

- a) Objective 2.1 in CSIRO's Strategic Plan states "Concentrate people processes on developing, attracting, exciting and retaining talent" and includes a success measure relating to Supervision of Masters/PhD students.
- b) The Strategic Plan 2003-07 addresses these issues (see E612_04)
- c) See also the response to E612_04. CSIRO's postgraduate scholarship scheme, and Divisional initiatives were developed in response to reducing numbers of PhD students being supervised. These schemes aim to significantly increase the number of PhD students being supervised. The number of sponsored PhD students has increased considerably since 2000.

The CSIRO postgraduate scholarship scheme was developed to increase the number of PhD students within CSIRO. This year's round has been specifically focused on Flagships with the objective of raising the profile of the Flagships with prospective PhD students and thus encouraging them to undertake postgraduate work in areas relevant to these important initiatives. Research Divisions also have strategies to increase the level of PhD supervision.

CSIRO has a target of 700 PhD students being supervised by 2006. The CSIRO Postgraduate Scholarship Scheme, along with Divisional strategies, is directed toward this target.