

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E624_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

Have the numbers in Business Development and Commercialisation continued to increase?

Was 10% of that budget claimed for redistribution?
If not, why not?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Executive salaries and Board remuneration

The 10% redistribution related specifically to the reallocation of Divisional research appropriation funds in support of Flagships and Emerging Science Area initiatives. During 2001/02 corporate overheads were reduced from the previous year by 8% to allow the redirection of support funds in line with CSIRO's Board-approved strategy to bolster the Business Development and Commercialisation support functions.

During 2002/03 CSIRO enhanced its corporate Business Development and Commercialisation capabilities by external recruitment and internal redeployment. By 30 June 2003 the group had reached a stable staffing level (see also E589_04).

The budgets of all corporate support groups are rigorously assessed annually and maintained at the most economic level required for CSIRO to meet its service requirements as an R&D organisation and statutory authority, and its legal, financial and staffing obligations as an employer. These requirements are generally not reduced by the redistribution of research funds from one project area to another. Nevertheless, CSIRO has an ongoing program to concentrate corporate support services where this will result in greater efficiencies or more economical services.