

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: - CSIRO

DEST Question No. E629_04

Senator Carr asked on 5 November 2003.

Question:

What has been the cost of all such travel to attend such events?

How is attendance at such events determined or approved?

Who is responsible for such approval?

What guidelines, either Public Service Board or CSIRO, apply to such decisions?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response:

Sport and culture

See Question E628_04 for the response to the question on the cost of travel to attend sporting or cultural events at the invitation of a supplier.

Attendance at such events is by invitation and determined by the supplier.

Under the CSIRO Code of Conduct (Policy Circular 94/18) staff members are not permitted to accept gifts or benefits of any significant value related to the performance of their official duties without the approval of their relevant senior manager.

Members of the Executive Team would be expected to exercise their own judgement and to consider the materiality of gift involved, the importance of dealing with potential suppliers in a fair and reasonable manner and with integrity, and the need to take whatever action is necessary to avoid a real or apparent conflict of interest.

Attendance at sporting and cultural events, at the invitation of potential clients, does however offer important networking opportunities with the other guests, which are consistent with CSIRO's mission and do not necessarily constitute a conflict of interest.

If the acceptance of an invitation is in the performance of a staff member's official duties then they should obtain the approval of their senior manager. Members of the Executive Team because of their senior positions would however be expected to exercise their own judgement.

CSIRO policy on the acceptance of invitations to sporting and cultural events offered by suppliers is covered by the CSIRO Code of Conduct (Policy Circular 94/18). It is also addressed in the CSIRO Terms and Conditions of Service, Personnel Management Manual, Financial Directions and Commercial Practice Manual.