

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2004-2005 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES

**Outcome:** CSIRO

**Output Group:** CSIRO

#### **DEST Question No. E338\_05**

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing

#### **Question:**

- i) What will be the total cost to CSIRO of the collaborative research and development programme between DSTO, ANSTO and CSIRO on counter terrorism projects?
- ii) Where will CSIRO draw funding from to support this collaborative programme?
- iii) Will CSIRO be provided with any additional funding to cover these costs?
- iv) Please update answer E238\_05 to include the costs of this collaborative project.

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

#### *Collaborative research and development programme*

(i) There is currently no formal collaborative research and development program between CSIRO, DSTO and ANSTO, although these organisations have, through particular staff and projects, collaborated over recent years. A working group involving representatives from PM&C, CSIRO, DSTO, ANSTO and Geoscience Australia has been established to discuss the timing and scale of a specific and collaborative Counter Terrorism research and development effort involving the PFRAs. A number of options are under active consideration; however it is not expected that any new collaborative projects will commence prior to next financial year.

(ii) Resources involved in the current planning activity, on CSIRO's side, are drawn from CSIRO's Secure Australia Major Cross Divisional Program (MXDP). Secure Australia is an ongoing cross-organisational coordination/facilitation initiative that commenced in 2003-2004 and has not been allocated additional funds to specifically engage DSTO and ANSTO. Total expenditure on Secure Australia this financial year is not expected to exceed \$350 000. Any additional internal funding for projects to be included in the collaborative research and development programme will be determined via organisational budget processes for 2005-06.

(iii) Any decision by the Government to provide additional funding to CSIRO would be made as part of the Federal Budget process. CSIRO cannot comment on Federal Budget outcomes.

The development of the PFRA Collaborative Research Programme for Counter Terrorism will provide an opportunity for the PFRAs to leverage funds from the PM&C's Science, Engineering and Technology Unit's funding programme "Research Support for Counter-Terrorism" for projects eligible under the programme's guidelines. This programme supports strategically focused R&D activities to enhance national counter-terrorism capabilities.

(iv) No update required. See responses above.