

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 3

**Output Group:** 3.2 – Assistance for science collaboration and innovation

#### **DEST Question No. E473\_06**

Senator Crossin provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

What proportion of the dump in terms of volume and in terms of radioactivity could be said arise from the production of items for medical uses?

#### **Answer:**

*Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility – Waste Volumes*

*ANSTO has provided the following response:*

Approximately

- 30% of current Commonwealth holdings, or 1140m<sup>3</sup>; and
- 75% of ANSTO's routine annual arisings, or 22.5m<sup>3</sup>,

of low level radioactive waste results from the production of medical radioisotopes.

For intermediate level waste (ILW) the corresponding figures are 120m<sup>3</sup> (30% of current Commonwealth holdings) and 1.9m<sup>3</sup> (75% of ANSTO's routine annual arisings).

Approximately 70% of the residues arising from the reprocessing of spent reactor fuel, or 23 m<sup>3</sup> in the case of HIFAR and up to 9 m<sup>3</sup> over the 40 year life of OPAL, can be attributed to use of the reactor for the production of medical radioisotopes.

A comprehensive survey of the total activity of low level waste at ANSTO is currently being undertaken. For radiation safety reasons it is not intended, at present, to measure the activity of ANSTO's intermediate level waste. Such measurement will be undertaken as part of preparations for the shipment of the waste to the Commonwealth Radioactive Waste Management Facility.