

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

**Outcome:** ANSTO  
**Output Group:** ANSTO

#### **DEST Question No. E517\_06 - Final**

Senator Crossin asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 24.

#### **Question:**

In the context of a discussion regarding the importation of radioisotopes:

Of the total quantity of isotopes that are used in Australia each year, can you tell me what proportion is imported, by category - medical, industrial and research? Of the other isotopes that are used in Australia, what proportion is supplied or produced by ANSTO; and are there any other sources?

#### **Answer:**

*Isotope imports*

*ANSTO has provided the following response:*

The majority of radioisotopes used in medical applications are supplied by ANSTO – we estimate around 80% of medical radioisotopes used in Australia. The remaining 20% consists of imports (including imports of brachytherapy seeds used in treatment of prostate cancer) and of a particular diagnostic radiopharmaceutical known as FDG, produced in mini-cyclotrons located in hospitals around the country.

We estimate that over 75% of industrial sources are imported.

We estimate that 90% of research radioisotopes used in Australia - that is, those radioisotopes that are not used directly for medicine or industrial applications - are imported. A significant proportion of these would be C-14 and H-3, which have very long half lives (and as such can be more easily imported) and are not produced by ANSTO. The other 10% are produced by ANSTO and are used by ANSTO researchers in areas such as medical and environmental research.

With the exception of the production of FDG, referred to above, ANSTO is the only producer of radioisotopes in Australia.