

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

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

#### **DEST Question No. E519\_06**

Senator Nettle asked on 2 November 2005, EWRE Hansard page 31.

#### **Question:**

In the context of a discussion regarding the possible overexposure of an ANSTO employee:

Have you ever had instances of the digital badges malfunctioning?

#### **Answer:**

*Personal radiation detectors*

*ANSTO has provided the following response:*

Occasional malfunctions are experienced, but for the most part these would be readily detected by the user, who would obtain another detector.

Additionally, dosimeters may occasionally go out of calibration. In the last twelve months, ANSTO calibration service received 346 electronic personal dosimeters for calibration. Of those, 337 were found to read within manufacturer's specifications. Although the other nine were outside manufacturer's specifications, this would not have prevented the dosimeter recording an exposure.

Electronic dosimeters are used on a day-to-day basis to give workers an instant indication of the approximate radiation fields in their working environment. These devices are used to supplement the thermoluminescent dosimeters (which are the official record of radiation doses received).