

**QUESTIONS TAKEN ON NOTICE  
SCIENCE AND MEDICAL RESEARCH  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2010**

**13 SEPTEMBER 2010**

**Questions subsequent to Hearing**

**Questions from Ms Pavey**

**Institutes**

**QUESTION 1**

How many research institutes applied for funding from the Medical Research Support Program in:

- a) 2006/2007?
- b) 2007/2008?
- c) 2008/2009?
- d) 2009/2010?
- e) 2010/2011?

**ANSWER (Q1)**

I am advised 26 institutes applied for triennial funding in 2005/2006 for the triennium commencing 2006/2007 and concluding 2008/2009.

22 organisations applied in 2008/2009 for funding in 2009/2010.

The 2009/2010 funding allocation was repeated in 2010/2011.

**QUESTION 2**

How many research institutes received funding from the Medical Research Support Program in:

- a) 2006/2007?
- b) 2007/2008?
- c) 2008/2009?
- d) 2009/2010?
- e) 2010/2011?

**ANSWER (Q2)**

I am advised 11 organisations met the eligibility criteria for funding for the triennium period 2006/2007 to 2008/2009.

4 additional organisations that did not meet threshold criteria for the program were provided transitional funding for 2006/2007 and 2007/2008.

17 organisations met the eligibility criteria for funding in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

**Knowledge**

**QUESTION 3**

In the Estimates hearing you stated in relation to funding of research institutes: *"The majority of them have been informed that funding has been made available."*

**QUESTION 4**

Can you confirm that as at 12 September 2010, you had contacted the majority of research institutes about funding has been made available?

**ANSWER (Q4)**

I can confirm the Executive Director, Innovation Science and Industry Analysis, Industry and Investment NSW had contacted the majority of research institutes.

**QUESTION 5**

As at 12 September 2010, how were the majority of research institutes contacted about funding?

**ANSWER (Q5)**

Phone calls by the Executive Director, Innovation Science and Industry Analysis, Industry and Investment NSW

**QUESTION 6**

Can you please provide date(s) when you contacted each research institute that funding has been made available?

**ANSWER (Q6)**

The majority by phone on 10 and 11 September 2010 by the Executive Director, Innovation Science and Industry Analysis, Industry and Investment NSW and by letter on 15 September 2010.

**Funding**

**QUESTION 7**

What has been the budget for the Medical Research Support Program as at:  
a) 1 July 2006?

- b) 1 July 2007?
- c) 1 July 2008?
- d) 1 July 2009?
- e) 1 July 2010?

**ANSWER (Q7)**

a,b,c) \$51.9 million was allocated for the triennium 2006/2007 to 2008/2009.

An additional \$10 million was provided from consolidated revenue at the end of 2005/06 for expenditure in the triennium beginning 2006/2007.

d) \$17.3 million was allocated for 2009/2010. An additional \$4 million in reprioritised departmental funding was provided at the end of 2008/2009, to be expended in the 2009/10 financial year and an additional \$4.7 million was provided in August 2009 from consolidated revenue.

e) \$17.3 million. An additional \$10 million from consolidated revenue was provided in September 2010.

**Revisions**

**QUESTION 8**

In the Estimates hearing you stated that in the Science and Medical Research budget "*there are always revisions to the budget*":

**QUESTION 9**

Why are there revisions to the budget less than 3 months into the 2010/2011 Financial Year?

**ANSWER(Q9)**

Budgets are able to be revised at any stage within the Financial Year subject to the Treasurer's and/or Cabinet's approval.

**QUESTION 10**

When preparing the 2010/2011 budget, did you expect there to be revisions to the Science and Medical Research Budget within the first three months of the 2010/2011 Financial Year?

**ANSWER (Q10)**

I indicated at a meeting with the medical research sector on 23 March 2010 that a more detailed understanding of the impacts of changes to the Federal funding framework for research was required before final funding levels could be determined.

**QUESTION 11**

In light that research institutes require certainty in funding, how many more budget revisions are likely to take place in the 2010/2011 Financial Year for the Science and Medical Research budget?

**ANSWER (Q11)**

No further revisions are planned.

**Top ups**

**QUESTION 12**

In the Estimates hearing you stated in relation to funding: *"What we as a Government have done over the past three years is top up that funding [to Medical Research Support Program]."*

**QUESTION 13**

What has been the budget "top up" for the Medical Research Support Program for:

- a) 2006/2007?
- b) 2007/2008?
- c) 2008/2009?
- d) 2009/2010?
- e) 2010/2011?

**ANSWER (Q13)**

- a) 2006/2007? refer Q 7
- b) 2007/2008? refer Q 7
- c) 2008/2009? refer Q 7
- d) 2009/2010? refer Q 7
- e) 2010/2011? \$10 million

**QUESTION 14**

Why is the "top up" of funding is not included in the 2010/2011 budget?

**ANSWER (Q14)**

The top up was approved after the release of the 2010/11 budget.

**QUESTION 15**

Does the funding for the "top up" come from consolidated revenue?

**ANSWER (Q15)**

Yes, in 2010/11 the top up came from consolidated revenue (see question 7)

**Questions during Hearing**

**QUESTION 1**

**Ms Jodi McKay (p35):** Yes. She (NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer) sits on the Innovation Council. She serves on a number of boards. I am happy to provide that list to you.

**The Hon Ian Cohen:** perhaps you could take it on notice.

**ANSWER (Q1)**

The NSW Chief Scientist and Scientific Engineer serves on a number of Government Boards and Committees as part of her role including:

- NSW Knowledge Fund Advisory Board (Chair)
- NSW Nanotechnology Policy Coordination Committee (Chair)
- NSW Innovation Council
- NSW Clean Coal Council
- NSW Spatial Council
- NSW NBN Taskforce
- NSW Science Agencies Group
- National Education Partnerships Evaluation Committee
- The Commonwealth State and Territory Advisory Council on Innovation.

**QUESTION 2**

**Ms Doyle (p 35):** We have a report that is in the public domain, commissioned by Professor Alan Bensoussan some years ago that, with the Minister's concurrence we could provide to the Committee.

**The Hon Ian Cohen:** I appreciate that.

**ANSWER (Q2)**

See Attached. (PDF)

### QUESTION 3

**The Hon Ian Cohen (p35):** Looking at another groundbreaking area, what research is New South Wales undertaking into the use of nanotechnology in consumer products?

### ANSWER (Q3)

Analysis and research to determine safety and efficacy of products is undertaken in a variety of settings, including by regulatory bodies at both Commonwealth and State levels. Universities also undertake this type of work.

The Science and Medical Research portfolio is implementing the requirement that new grants provided for nanotechnology research and development require recipients to prepare a report on the health, safety and environmental risks of relevant nanomaterials, and the steps to minimise these risks.

### QUESTION 4

**The Hon Ian Cohen (p35):** Is it reasonable to ask that the Office for Science and Medical Research provide a list of all its current memoranda of understanding in that area (nanotechnology) if that is appropriate?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** We can take that on notice.

### ANSWER (Q4)

The Office for Science and Medical Research does not have any Memoranda of Understanding related specifically to nanotechnology.

### QUESTION 5

**CHAIR:** Moving on to the budget for science and medical research, I note that page 7-41 in Budget Paper No. 1 has an allocation of \$47 million, but Industry Innovation is included in that. Can you separate the science and medical research policy allocation and the Industry Innovation allocation?

**Ms JODI McKAY:** I will ask the Deputy Director General of Industry and Investment to answer that question for you.

**Mr BUFFIER:** The budget papers do not specifically show the allocation for the Office of Science and Medical Research. It is for a larger part the department headed by Ms Doyle, and as she has indicated that has subsequently changed. The Office of Science and Medical Research recurrent budget is \$44.4 million. That is what it will be in 2010-11, with \$27 million for the medical research support fund, \$10 million for the science leveraging fund, and various components for salary.

**CHAIR:** That is \$44 million?

**Mr BUFFIER:** Yes.

**CHAIR:** So that is only \$3 million for Industry Innovation?

**Mr BUFFIER:** No. Because of that supplementation we are talking about of \$10 million, you would need to take that off that figure so it is closer to \$13 million. I would like to take that question on notice and break it up specifically for you and give you the details so that it reconciles back to those figures.

## ANSWER (Q5)

I am advised by the Deputy Director General Industry & Investment NSW that the Budget allocation of \$46,898 million at p7-36 refers to one branch, the Innovation, Science and Industry Analysis Branch (ISIA) in Industry and Investment NSW (I&I NSW). The Office for Science and Medical Research (OSMR) is one unit in this branch. Funding, facilitation, industry development and investment attraction activities are also undertaken by other branches and divisions in I&I NSW.

The grants budget for OSMR for 2010-11, as per the Budget Papers (p7-36) is \$34,243 million. This does not include the \$10 million supplementation to the Medical Research Support Program.

The remaining funding described at p7-36 supports the broader branch activities, including OSMR-related employee costs of \$2.995 million.

## QUESTION 6

**CHAIR:** You mentioned earlier about central funding for research. What is the amount of Federal allocation for New South Wales compared with the State allocation?

**Ms Jodi McKay:** We would need to take that on notice.

## ANSWER (Q6)

There is not a specific allocation made by the Commonwealth to NSW research and development activities. Commonwealth funding is generally allocated on a competitive basis. In relation to the Science and Medical Research portfolio relevant funding includes National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) programs and Department of Innovation Industry Science and Research (DIISR) programs, in particular from Australian Research Council (ARC).

For grants commencing in 2010, NSW attracted 27% (up from 25% in 2009) and \$191 million of the national share of NHMRC funding; and 34% (our per capita share) and over \$168 million of the national share of ARC funding.

For 2010/11, relevant funding from the Science and Medical Research portfolio comprises \$27.3 million for the Medical Research Support Program (MRSP), \$10 million for Science Leveraging Fund (SLF), \$5 million for capital funding for the Illawarra and \$2.5 million for the Spinal Cord Injury and Other Neurological Conditions Fund.



**Jodi McKay MP**