

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates  
20 October 2016

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**AGENCY:** ANSTO

**TOPIC:** Funding of Australian Synchrotron

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** SI-82

What's the current funding situation for the Synchrotron?

- a. The new funding envelope for funding the synchrotron announced in the budget was \$11.4 million in 2016-17, \$40.9m in 2017-18, 43.9m in 2018-19 and \$48.9m in 2019-20. Is that correct?
- b. How much of that funding envelope will cover the ongoing running costs of the synchrotron?
- c. Is that just to maintain current capacity or does it include some expansion of capacity, such as by the addition of new beamlines or any other facilities?
- d. How many people currently work at the Synchrotron?

**ANSWER**

- a. Yes, at the time of the 2016-17 Budget, the total operating package supplied by the Australian Government's National Innovation and Science Agenda (NISA) over the ten year period to 2025-2026 was \$519.8m. This includes \$11.4m in 2016-2017, \$40.9m in 2017-2018, \$43.9m in 2018-2019 and \$48.9m in 2019-20. The 2016-17 figure is supplemented by separate Australian Government funding of \$22.5m, which was approved prior to the NISA funding announcement.
- b. The entirety of the funding will be used for operational costs, as set out in the funding agreement.
- c. The funding will maintain current capacity to a world class standard. \$107.8m of the NISA funding is for the operations of an anticipated eight new beamlines. It does not include capital funding for the expansion of capacity by the addition of any new beamlines.
- d. The current headcount at the Australian Synchrotron is 141 full time equivalents, including temporary vacancies.