

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates

28 May 2012

Question: BR3
Topic: GCCSI International Advisory Panel
Proof Hansard Page: 114

Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY: Who is on the international advisory panel which advises the institute?

Ms Sewell: I am sorry, Senator. We do not have that information.

Senator BUSHBY: You can take that on notice. Can you tell me whether members of the international advisory panel are paid? If so, how much?

Ms Sewell: Yes. They are paid. I would have to take remuneration on notice too.

Senator BUSHBY: And whether there is any cap involved in that. When did Mr James Wolfensohn leave the international advisory panel?

Ms Sewell: It was last year, Senator. Off the top of my head, I would say about 12 months ago.

Senator BUSHBY: You do not have the date handy? Is the department aware of a letter that Mr Wolfensohn wrote to then Prime Minister Kevin Rudd when he left? It might be more than a year. When he left the international advisory panel, was a letter that was sent by him advising the Prime Minister of his resignation brought to the attention of the department?

Ms Sewell: Senator, Mr Wolfensohn was in correspondence with the Prime Minister over a number of issues. I cannot recall that specific letter, but I am happy to take it on notice.

Senator BUSHBY: If there is a letter where he advises the Prime Minister that he is leaving, can you provide the date that that letter reached the then Prime Minister?

Ms Sewell: Yes, Senator.

Answer:

1. The International Advisory Panel consists of Board Chair Mr Russell Higgins and four appointed members:

- Mr Claude Mandil
- Professor Dr Zeng Rongshu
- Dr Leena Srivastava
- Lord Nicholas Stern

Further information can be found on the Institute website

(<http://www.globalccsinstitute.com/institute/about-the-institute/international-advisory-panel>).

2. The Institute is a private company established under the Corporations Act 2001, with a Board of Directors responsible for governance as prescribed under Corporations Law.

Remuneration of the International Advisory Panel is the responsibility of the management of the Institute and the Department does not hold this information.

3. Mr Wolfensohn's letter of resignation from the International Advisory Panel to Prime Minister Gillard is dated 23 February 2011. It was received in the Office of the Prime Minister on 3 March 2011. The letter was brought to the attention of RET.