



Australian Government

25 February 2013

Ansto

Nuclear-based science benefiting all Australians

Senator the Hon Mark Bishop
Chair, Senate Economics Legislation Committee
PO Box 6100
Senate
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator

As you are aware, during the Senate Economics Legislation Committee's recent Senate Estimates Hearing on 13 February 2013, ANSTO CEO Dr Adi Paterson was presented with a copy of an email alleged to have been sent from an ANSTO email account. During the hearing Dr Paterson undertook to investigate the source of that email and provide further information to the Committee on its content.

As stated during the Hearing, in addition to operating under the Commonwealth's information and communication technology security framework, ANSTO's internal policies and procedures provide a detailed structure for appropriate use of IT systems. ANSTO takes any breach of these policies seriously and it is standard procedure that an investigation is undertaken where any concern is raised.

ANSTO has investigated the email provided to Dr Paterson during the Hearing and can confirm it was sent from an ANSTO computer. The email in no way reflects the views of the organisation and addresses material which is not in the normal range of activities of ANSTO and goes beyond our mandate.

The sending of this email is a breach of the following codes and agreements:

- the ANSTO Enterprise Agreement;
- the ANSTO Code of Ethics;
- the ANSTO Contract of Employment; and
- ANSTO Policy AS-2024 on *Email, Intranet and Internet Use*.

The matter has been dealt with in accordance with those policies and appropriate disciplinary action has been taken. The employee responsible for sending this communication unintentionally used his ANSTO email designation by completing a web form supplied by an external group of which he is a member; he did not initiate this email on his own behalf. The employee has been counselled and has expressed genuine remorse for both the misuse of the ANSTO IT system and the inappropriate manner and tone of the email. We now consider this matter closed.

AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

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I would like to thank the Committee for drawing this to ANSTO's attention and reiterate that the content of that email in no way represents the views of our Organisation. We apologise for any offence which may have been caused by the actions of an employee acting outside the scope of acceptable conduct.

Yours sincerely

Nadia Levin
General Manager
Government, International and External Relations