

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry and Science Portfolio  
Additional Estimates 2014-15  
26 February 2015

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** ANSTO

**TOPIC:** Submarines

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Leyonhjelm

**QUESTION No.:** AI-53

Does Australia have the expertise to maintain nuclear powered submarines?

**ANSWER**

ANSTO is Australia's national nuclear research and development organisation, and the centre of Australian nuclear expertise. Its unique expertise is applied to radiopharmaceutical production and research, water resource management, air pollution monitoring, materials engineering, neutron scattering, and a range of other scientific disciplines. It provides expert advice to the Australian Government, particularly in regard to national security and non-proliferation.

ANSTO currently does not have expertise in the design and maintenance of reactors on nuclear-powered submarines. ANSTO is not aware of this expertise existing within any other organisation or institution within Australia