

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

AGENCY: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Proposed Building 54 Plant

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 March 2017, page 56)

QUESTION No.: AI-6

Senator LUDLAM: Yes, if you could. My next question, which might end up falling into the same category, is about your future estimated production from the proposed building 54 plant. Assuming Australia's demands are not likely to change dramatically—and tell me if that is not the present trend—then what percentage would be used domestically and what would be sold for export?

Dr Paterson: I will take that on notice.

Senator LUDLAM: Present production and potential future production.

ANSWER

The ANSTO Nuclear Medicine (ANM) facility will replace the current Building 54 molybdenum-99 (Mo-99) manufacturing facility. Once fully operational, ANM will significantly increase ANSTO's production of Mo-99. With this increase in production, it is estimated that around 17 per cent of product will be used to meet domestic demand, and the remaining 83 per cent will be exported, meeting a global need for access to life-saving nuclear medicines.

Importantly, ANSTO's international sales of Mo-99 are priced to ensure full cost recovery. This pricing includes the cost of manufacture, the cost of treatment and final disposal of wastes resulting from the manufacturing process, and future decommissioning costs of the manufacturing plant.