

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Questacon

TOPIC: Science for Australia's Future

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-199

1. What are the elements of the Science for Australia's Future budget measure? Please describe the activities and outcomes envisaged for each element.
2. What is the funding profile for each element of Science for Australia's future? Include the following elements:
 - a. Prime Ministers Prizes for Science
 - b. National Science Week
 - c. Strategic Science and Communication Program
 - d. Questacon Smart Skills National Technology Learning program
 - e. Questacon Equity of Access program
 - f. Questacon foundation
3. For Opening opportunities through Science for Australia's Future please provide:
 - a. The 2013-14 updated budget outcome for this program
 - b. Current forward estimates for 2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17, 2017-18
 - c. What the breakdown of these estimates is between administered and Departmental costs?
 - d. How many FTE staff positions are allocated to the running of Opening opportunities through Science for Australia's Future?

ANSWER

1. The *Science for Australia' Future* new budget measure has the following key elements:
 - a. *Prime Minister's Prizes for Science* are Australia's pre-eminent annual awards for excellence in science and science teaching. The following Prizes will be awarded annually:
 - *Prime Minister's Prize for Science;*
 - *Prime Minister's Prize for Innovation;*
 - *Frank Fenner Prize for Life Scientist of the Year;*
 - *Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year;*
 - *Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools;*
 - *Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Secondary Schools.*

- b. *National Science Week* is Australia's annual celebration of science and technology. It provides opportunity to acknowledge the contributions of Australian scientists to the world of knowledge and to encourage an interest in science pursuits among the general public. *National Science Week* grants support projects which target new and under-served audiences and events which engage regional Australia and Indigenous communities.
- c. Strategic Science and Communication programme to provide targeted grants for projects to encourage Australians to participate in science.
- d. *Questacon Smart Skills* programme. To develop and deliver national initiatives in technology learning that provide skills necessary for future industries including:
 - *Smart Skills* programme – creativity and innovation;
 - *Smart Moves* programme – entrepreneurial skills and confidence;
 - *Technology Teacher Support* – professional development and support for technology teachers.
- e. *Questacon Equity of Access* programme. To include demonstration apparatus for auditory and visually impaired, enhanced online capability and increased regional and remote reach for the Science Circus programme through additional four presenters.
- f. *Questacon Foundation*. Establishment of the Questacon Foundation including seed funding, external auditing and administration, reporting and compliance costs, design and development of sponsorship publications and fundraising events.

2.

Science for Australia's Future 2014-18	\$28.056 million
<i>Prime Minister's Prizes for Science</i>	\$5.535 million
<i>National Science Week</i>	\$7.828 million
Strategic Science and Communication	\$5.594 million
<i>Questacon Smart Skills</i>	\$6.759 million
<i>Questacon Equity of Access</i>	\$1.155 million
Questacon Foundations	\$1.185 million

- 3a. The *Science for Australia's Future 2014-18* is a new budget measure announced in May 2014 and as such does not have a 2013-14 budget outcome.

3b-c.

Programme	2014-15 \$ million			2015-16 \$ million			2016-17 \$ million			2017-18 \$ million		
	Adm	Dept	Total	Adm	Dept	Total	Adm	Dept	Total	Adm	Dept	Total
<i>Prime Minister's Prizes for Science</i>	1.169	0.215	1.384	1.169	0.214	1.383	1.169	0.213	1.382	1.169	0.215	1.384
<i>National Science Week</i>	1.710	0.248	1.958	1.710	0.246	1.956	1.710	0.245	1.955	1.710	0.248	1.958
Strategic Science & Communication	1.110	0.290	1.400	1.110	0.288	1.398	1.110	0.287	1.397	1.110	0.290	1.400
<i>Smart Skills</i>	0.000	1.696	1.696	0.000	1.686	1.686	0.000	1.680	1.680	0.000	1.696	1.696
<i>Equity of Access</i>	0.000	0.290	0.290	0.000	0.288	0.288	0.000	0.287	0.287	0.000	0.290	0.290
Questacon Foundation	0.000	0.298	0.298	0.000	0.296	0.296	0.000	0.295	0.295	0.000	0.298	0.298
Total	3.989	3.037	7.026	3.989	3.018	7.007	3.989	3.007	6.996	3.989	3.037	7.026

3d.

Programme	FTE
<i>Prime Minister's Prizes for Science</i>	1.5
<i>National Science Week</i>	1.5
Strategic Science and Communication	2
<i>Questacon Smart Skills</i>	9
<i>Questacon Equity of Access</i>	0
Questacon Foundations	1
Total	15