

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF MARINE SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** International Travel

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, page 46)

**QUESTION No.:** BI-23

**Senator CARR:** What is the effect of the restriction on travel?

**Senator Ronaldson:** Do not use the word ban when it is permission. You just keep on doing this all the time. You have been grumpy over there all morning. You have been having a crack at the Chair all day and now you are making things up. Why don't you just ask the question appropriately rather than behaving as you are at the moment?

**Mr Gunn:** The directive that I was given was that all travel for AIMS up to a certain amount—I think it was up to \$50,000 on any single travel event—was at the CEO's discretion. As we always do, we look very carefully at every overseas trip that AIMS scientists make. To my understanding every proposal that was put in front of me was supported. So there was, and has been, no cut in overseas engagement.

**Senator CARR:** Have you had the same level of travel as last year?

**Mr Gunn:** I will take that on notice, but on face value I do not believe that it would be any less than last year.

**ANSWER**

International travel by the Australian Institute of Marine Science (AIMS) scientists is undertaken in accordance with needs and opportunity for overseas engagement. AIMS continues to seek efficiency improvements in all areas of the business.

Applications for overseas travel are assessed on a case by case basis using standard cost / benefit criteria. Fewer overseas trips have been undertaken in the 2013-14 year to date than were undertaken in 2012-13.

As a point of clarification the directive relating to Chief Executive Officer approval for travel was up to \$20K and not \$50k as stated during the hearing.