

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: QUESTACON

TOPIC: Science Prizes

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, page 113)

QUESTION No.: BI-49

Senator KIM CARR: What is the value of the prize?

Prof. Durant: The main Prime Minister's Prize for Science is \$300,000 a year. The Malcolm McIntosh prize and the Frank Fenner prize are \$50,000 a year; and the two science teaching prizes are again at \$50,000 a year but the teacher's prize is split between the school and the teacher.

Senator KIM CARR: You say they are remaining—

Prof. Durant: The value of those prizes will remain constant. There are no plans to—

Senator KIM CARR: They have been like that for a couple of years, haven't they?

Prof. Durant: They have been that way for a number of years, yes.

Senator KIM CARR: How many years?

Prof. Durant: I would need to seek advice on that. The figure will be known but the time I have been involved in it, it has been that figure.

Senator KIM CARR: What about the cost of attendance at the science prizes for school teachers—is that being met by the department?

Prof. Durant: The cost for attendance at the science prizes—we have always paid for the attendance of the prizewinners and their headmasters

Senator KIM CARR: They are the only ones.

Prof. Durant: I believe that is the case but, again, can I take that on notice and just check so I don't mislead you.

ANSWER

1. The *Prime Minister's Prize for Science* was set up in 2000 with a prize value of \$300,000 and has remained unchanged to date. The *Malcolm McIntosh* and *Science Minister's* (later renamed as *Frank Fenner Prize*) Prizes were set up in 2000 with prize monies initially being \$35,000 each. In 2002 under the then Minister for Science Peter McGauran the value of both Prizes was increased to \$50,000. It has remained unchanged to date. The two *Science Teaching Prizes* were set up in 2002 with the prize monies at \$50,000 each, which remained unchanged to date.
2. The information on *Prime Minister's Prizes for Science* and their value is available at <http://www.industry.gov.au/science/InspiringAustralia/PrimeMinistersPrizesforScience/Pages/default.aspx>.
3. The Department covers the cost of attendance of the *Prime Minister's Prizes for Science* Awards for the science teachers (recipients of the *Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science Teaching in Primary Schools* and *Prime Minister's Prize for Excellence in Science*

Teaching in Secondary Schools), their partners, and Principals of the schools sharing in the Prizes.