

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: CSIRO

TOPIC: CSIROs involvement in the robo-debt scrambling

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, Page 40)

QUESTION No.: BI-30

Senator RICE: Has Data61 done previous work with DHS? In particular, did you have any involvement with the so-called robo-debt crisis and the data being used for that?

Dr Williams: We covered the robo-debt crisis earlier. Senator Carr asked a question, I believe, on that, and we answered: yes, we have been involved in that work. The work that you have just referred to will actually be with DSS, not DHS, and that is on helping them do data analytics and offer them advice and support on the scientific value of data analytics in respect of the data sets they have.

Senator RICE: I am sorry; I clearly was not paying attention when Senator Carr was asking his questions on the robo-debt crisis, but—

Dr Marshall: Just to clarify on that: we were involved after the issue, not before the issue.

Senator RICE: That is what I wanted to confirm—whether Data61 was involved in setting up the structures that then obviously went so badly wrong. So you are saying, no, it was in scrambling to make it work.

Senator Sinodinos: After. If we can take further questions on Data61 on notice, that would be good. I am conscious that Dr Marshall has to get to Singapore. He has got a connecting flight.

Senator RICE: Okay. Could you take on notice the level of funding that was involved with CSIRO's involvement with the robo-debt scrambling, please.

ANSWER

Please refer to Question on Notice – BI-25.