

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

AGENCY: ANSTO

TOPIC: Workforce development

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-109

Your corporate plan says "The custodianship of landmark infrastructure and the need for a science-knowledgeable workforce has created an opportunity for ANSTO to play a stronger role in the development of postgraduate research and early career stage research." What sort of role do you envisage ANSTO playing?

What consultations have been held?

What gaps in the training and research ecosystem would an ANSTO role propose to fill?

Where would an ANSTO Graduate Institute be based?

Would it have a role in the training of HDR students?

Would you seek to partner with an existing university or consortium of universities?

ANSWER

ANSTO currently plays a significant role in the development of early career scientists, through the hosting and employment of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers. ANSTO has also played an integral role in the re-establishment of masters-level nuclear engineering education at the University of New South Wales. ANSTO provides course content and expert lecturers for the UNSW Masters in Electrical Engineering (Nuclear Engineering).

ANSTO is developing a proposal for an Innovation Precinct which would be home to a proposed Graduate Institute, a nuclear science and technology innovation hub and a broader innovation and technology park. The overarching aim of the Innovation Precinct is to strengthen links with industry and foster innovation. Consultations are currently being held with stakeholders from the higher education and industry sectors, with formal planning expected to commence in 2017-18.

At any time, there are currently 120 postgraduate researchers from over 30 universities conducting research at ANSTO. It is anticipated that the Graduate Institute will establish a more formal program with approximately 300-400 graduate and postgraduate students undertaking research studies at ANSTO in Sydney and Melbourne.