

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014

#### Outcome 3 - Higher Education, Research and International

Department of Education Question No. ED0239\_14

Senator Carr asked on 20 November 2013, Hansard page 130

#### Question

#### Reviewing of the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy

Senator KIM CARR: The Australian Astronomical Observatory issued an advisory committee public update following its sixth meeting on 20 September this year. In that, it refers to the NCRIS program that is being reviewed by the department with the possibility of developing a future program. Is that correct? Mr Griew: I have not seen that report. Senator KIM CARR: I am quoting directly from the report. I am asking you about the veracity of that observation. Is the department reviewing the NCRIS program with the possibility of developing a future program? Mr Griew: The wording of the report, the way it puts it, is a matter for that organisation. We have a problem with the NCRIS program, which is that it runs out of money for operations in 2015, and that is a matter on which I am sure the government will seek and be provided with advice in due course. Senator KIM CARR: Have you undertaken any further review? Mr Griew: Not at this time, no. Senator KIM CARR: I take it this is a matter for budgetary consideration. Ms Paul: That is right, as Mr Griew was just saying. But in terms of some other sort of review, we are not aware of that. I will have a look at that report and have a look at the context if you like. Senator KIM CARR: I do not think I misquoted it. It has your letterhead on it. Ms Paul: No, that is fine. Mr Griew: There is an undertaking that we will evaluate the program. Senator KIM CARR: That is standard operating procedure. Do you think that that may— Mr Griew: As a standard operating procedure. It is very hard to comment on a document we have not seen. Ms Paul: We will take it on notice. We will have a good look at that document. Senator KIM CARR: It is a clear statement. It actually has a Department of Industry logo on the top, I notice. Ms Paul: What is the date? Senator KIM CARR: It appears to be a report of the AAO advisory committee's sixth meeting on 20 September 2013 at the North Ryde facility. It says: 'A summary of the key recommendations and outcomes of the meeting are as follows.' Ms Paul: A different department. We will have a look at it. We will take it on notice.

#### Answer

There is a requirement for projects supported under the National Collaborative Research Infrastructure Strategy Continuation to be evaluated over the next 12 months. The department is currently considering how the evaluation will be undertaken.