

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10  
10 February 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Postgraduates

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Eggleston

**QUESTION No.:** AI-53

1. What percentage of science post-graduates find work in their field of study?
2. What have been the figures for each of the past 3 years in respect to:
  - a) the average time it takes for a science post graduate to find work in their field of study?
  - b) the percentage of science post graduates find work in Australia and what percent overseas?
  - c) the percent of post graduates in each year who do not after graduation find work in their chosen field within 3 years and 5 years.
3. What is the breakdown of employment of science post graduates between the private and public sector?

**ANSWER**

1. The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research has been unable to identify a data source for the requested information.
- 2a) The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research has been unable to identify a data source for the requested information.
- b) There is no data available on Australian postgraduates working overseas. While not collected or held by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, there is limited data available about Australian labour market outcomes for recent science postgraduates from the *Postgraduate Destination Survey* publications from Graduate Careers Australia Ltd. (GCA). The annual *Postgraduate Destination Survey* is part of the much larger *Australian Graduate Survey* administered by GCA and funded by the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations. This data is available from the GCA website ([www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au)).
- c) The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research has been unable to identify a data source for the requested information.
3. Relevant data is not collected or held by the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, however, the *Postgraduate Destination Surveys*, referred to above in the answer to question 2b, have some data on the proportions of postgraduates working in the public and private sectors. This data is available from the GCA website ([www.graduatecareers.com.au](http://www.graduatecareers.com.au)).