

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2007-08
28 May 2007

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: National Nanotechnology Strategy

REFERENCE: Written Question

QUESTION No. B1-8

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

What will be the elements of the National Nanotechnology Strategy? How will the \$21.5 million be spent?

ANSWER

The main elements of the National Nanotechnology Strategy are:

- the establishment of a nano-metrology capability within the National Measurement Institute (NMI);
- ensuring that we understand and address the health, safety and environment issues relating to nanotechnology;
- informing and engaging the community about nanotechnology; and
- managing and implementing a national approach for nanotechnology.

The \$21.5 million will be divided amongst these elements to ensure that Australia captures the benefits offered from nanotechnology whilst addressing the challenges and risks.

The \$21.5 million includes \$8.3 million which will be provided to the Departments of Health and Ageing; Employment and Workplace Relations; and the Environment and Water Resources to support activities to address health, safety and environment issues, including the development of robust and responsive regulatory systems. Of the remaining \$13.2 million: \$5.75 million will for establishment of a nano-metrology capability in the National Measurement Institute; \$2.75 million will for used for informing and engaging the community about nanotechnology; and \$4.7 million will be for managing and implementing a national approach for nanotechnology.