

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11
31 May 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: AUSTRALIAN NUCLEAR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY ORGANISATION

TOPIC: Cyclotrons

REFERENCE: Written Question-Senator Heffernan

QUESTION No.: BI-39

Is it true that ANSTO is providing capital funding for equipment used with cyclotron technology at hospitals around the country?

What process was used in determining where the funding is going?

Can ANSTO explain how the head of PET at the Austin Hospital, Prof Andrew Scott who is also an ANSTO Board Member be the recipient of nearly \$2m worth of ANSTO capital without an open grant process?

Does ANSTO consider this to be good governance?

ANSWER

As part of its broader research and innovation strategy, ANSTO has extensive collaborative and partnership arrangements with various medical research institutes and universities to enhance Australia's medical and biological research capabilities. This includes arrangements for the further development of cyclotrons around Australia for research purposes.

ANSTO has a number of established and developing collaborative arrangements in research cyclotron facilities, including:

- Collaboration with the Charles Gairdner Hospital in Western Australia for cyclotron targetry and radionuclide development research;
- An agreement with the University of Sydney regarding a research cyclotron facility to be based at Camperdown in Sydney. Refer BI-40(e).
- An arrangement with the University of Queensland to partner in their successful Education Investment Fund bid for a Centre for Advanced Imaging;
- Preliminary discussions with the Department of Health in Western Australia regarding a cyclotron collaboration at the new
- Fiona Stanley Hospital, which is currently under construction;
- Ongoing partnership discussions with the Peter MacCallum Institute regarding the establishment of an ANSTO sponsored Collaborative Clinical Radiopharmacy Research Facility at the intended Comprehensive Cancer Centre in Melbourne; and
- An agreement with Austin Health Ludwig Institute for Cancer Research with ANSTO for joint competitive research and cyclotron provision.

These arrangements are intended to enhance Australia's research cyclotron capabilities and expertise, train nuclear medicine practitioners, and provide isotopes to the nuclear medicine

community and the Australian research community. They support *Powering Ideas: the Innovation Agenda for the 21st Century* which outlines the Australian Government's commitment to "minimising duplications and inefficiencies, building critical mass and promoting cross-disciplinary understanding." Specifically, priority five of this policy - "building of an innovation system which encourages a culture of collaboration within the research sector and between researchers and industry." ANSTO affirms and endorses and acts on this priority.

ANSTO Chief Executive Officer, Dr Paterson spoke on the approach at the Australia New Zealand Society for Nuclear Medicine in Auckland, New Zealand in April 2010. 80 practitioner and nuclear medicine leaders attended this event. The attendees agreed that the time was now ripe for the research cyclotron community to form a dedicated body, anchored by ANSTO, which can advance cyclotron research, engineering and operations.

This is part of ANSTO's normal research and innovation planning, which has been strengthened by the *Powering Ideas* policy framework.

Refer to BI-4.

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