

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION (CSIRO)

TOPIC: Suicide Watch

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 28 May 2012, page 20)

QUESTION No.: BI-7

Senator COLBECK: Are you aware of any cases in recent years in which an employee has been placed on suicide watch as a consequence of their experiences at CSIRO?

Mr Roy: Not that I am aware of. In terms of the broader organisation, we would have to take that on notice. But I am certainly not aware of it.

Senator COLBECK: So you cannot assure me that that has not happened on occasion in recent years?

Mr Roy: I would be quite surprised. But as I said specifically, I cannot give you an ironclad guarantee today. I would have to ask some questions around that. We do run an organisation where we have a number of divisions. They generally deal with the matters that are raised in terms of any health and wellbeing issues with staff members in their division. It tends to escalate to my level if it cannot be resolved within a divisional construct or, in fact, Dr Clark's level.

ANSWER

No, at the time of the hearing CSIRO was unaware of an allegation that a former employee had been placed on suicide watch as a consequence of their experiences at CSIRO.

CSIRO only became aware of the matter as a result of correspondence sent to Minister Evans dated 24 May 2012 and received by his office on 30 May 2012. This information was not previously known to CSIRO.