

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Stem Cell Centre

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 23 October 2008, E88)

QUESTION No.: SI-47

Senator ABETZ—...Can we be advised as to how much was paid for this review to be undertaken? Has that been announced anywhere as yet?

Mr Pennifold—The cost of that review is under a contract and GST inclusive is \$324,410.

Senator ABETZ—In anybody's language that is not a small sum of money but clearly the ASCC—

Senator Carr—It is substantive.

Senator ABETZ—It does consume a substantial amount of Australian taxpayers' money. Given the problems that the minister described as 'major problems', it is appropriate that this sort of report be obtained. Undoubtedly, for that sum of money—

Senator Carr—You know the public conversation around this issue. I think it would be a fair description to say there are major problems. The board has resigned and the CEO has resigned.

Senator ABETZ—Sorry?

Senator Carr—Both the board and the CEO have resigned. These are not usual circumstances.

Senator ABETZ—When did the board resign?

Senator Carr—That is all in the public record. I do not know the precise dates.

Senator ABETZ—I am not being critical of this. It is an unfortunate situation.

Senator BOSWELL—I just want to come in on this.

Senator ABETZ—Take on notice please when the board resigned and when the CEO resigned.

Senator ABETZ—Take on notice please when the board resigned and when the CEO resigned.

Mr Chesworth—Could I respond to a question that Senator Abetz asked to be put on notice? The former ASCC board resigned on 5 September.

Date CEO resigned remains unanswered.

ANSWER

The ASCC made a statement on this matter on 30 July 2008, which can be accessed on its website at:

http://www.stemcellcentre.edu.au/resources.ashx/mediareleaseschilddatadownloads/41/fileName/5D97229E13827D89BCAD4CF6254B7A44/30_July_2008_-_Statement_from_the_Australian_Stem_Cell_Centre.pdf