

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012  
19 October 2011

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

**TOPIC:** WORKER'S COMPENSATION

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Colbeck

**QUESTION No.:** SI-79

1. Does CSIRO still receive annual bonus paybacks on its workers' compensation claims based on the numbers of incidents in the organisation?
2. Was the bonus for 2008-09 nearly three-quarters of a million dollars?
3. What have been the amounts of the bonus for 2009-10 and 2010-11?
4. What happens with these bonuses – are they invested in research activities, in improvements to workplace safety arrangements or are they directed to other end(s)?

**ANSWER**

1. Yes. Any bonus (or penalty) incurred in relation to workers' compensation claims is based on updated information on the potential real cost of claims as they develop over the year as compared to previous estimates of the costs of those claims. The amount each year is therefore variable. This process is managed by Comcare.
2. Yes. The bonus received by CSIRO in 2008-09 was \$719,600.
3. The bonus amounts received by CSIRO in 2009-10 was \$324,000. The bonus amounts received by CSIRO in 2010-11 was \$495,000.
4. Any bonuses received by CSIRO reduce costs and free up more resources to be invested in research.