

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
19 October 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: COMMONWEALTH SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH ORGANISATION

TOPIC: CSIRO SCIENCE JOURNALISM AWARD

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-84

1. How is the CSIRO Science Journalism award funded – does it come from the organisation's general budget allocation, or is it drawn from the funding for a specific program or line item?
2. What is the total amount allocated in the budget to that award?
3. What does the travel grant of \$5,000 for that award entail – what kind of travel is possible?
4. How many applications were received for the award in 2011, and who was on the judging panel?
5. Were the diversity and breadth of her stories among the criteria for why the award was made to Ms Clarke, of the ABC – and did that include a judgement that she has presented a diverse range of stories on climate change?
6. Is that the only kind of prize or payment that CSIRO makes available to members of the media or to media organisations – or are there others? If there are others, please list the details of each of these prizes/payments; the recipients during 2010 and 2011 and how much money was paid to each of them.

ANSWER

1. The CSIRO Science Journalism Award is funded from the CSIRO Corporate Communications budget.
2. \$5,100, comprising \$5,000 for the prize, plus \$100 for the trophy.
3. The \$5,000 is provided in the form of a travel voucher for use at the winner's discretion.
4. Sixteen applications were received. The judging panel comprised: Huw Morgan, Media Manager, CSIRO; Susannah Elliot, CEO, Australian Science Media Centre; and James O'Loughlin, Broadcaster and Presenter.
5. Diversity and breadth of stories were considered by the judges. Subject matter was not a consideration, all areas of science were eligible content.
6. The CSIRO journalism award is the only prize or payment available from CSIRO to the media.