

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2003-2004 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: 3
Output Group: 3.4

DEST Question No. E744_04

Senator CARR asked on 18 February 2004, EWRE Hansard page 106

Question:

Would you provide me with a breakdown on what you understand to be the cost of those state based centres and how they cooperate with the Commonwealth.

Answer:

State based centres

Questacon has provided the following response.

The following is publicly available information on funding for state-based science centres:

NSW – The Science Centre and Planetarium; Wollongong
\$1million per annum – obtained from door takings, in-kind sponsorship (estimated value \$300K). Funding received from University of Wollongong (\$75K). No Commonwealth or State funding.

VICTORIA – Scienceworks Museum; Spotswood
One of three campuses of the Museum Victoria. Estimated operating budget is \$10million per annum from State level funding. No Commonwealth funding except small, occasional program associated grants – such as Science Week.

TASMANIA – The Imaginarium; Devonport
Operating budget of \$275K per annum from Local Government only.

SOUTH AUSTRALIA – The Investigator; Adelaide
Operating budget of \$1.35 million per annum. Receive \$500K per annum from the SA Government. Recently closed day-to-day venue operation to focus on Outreach programs such as Teacher Workshops and Maths Labs.

WESTERN AUSTRALIA – Scitech Discovery Centre; Perth
No information publicly available. Recently received a funding boost announced in July 2003 by Hon Dr Geoff Gallop, Premier of Western Australia: \$24.4million over the next 5 years towards upgrade of the Scitech operation.

QUEENSLAND – The Science Centre; Brisbane
No information publicly available.

Interaction Between Questacon and State Science Centres

Since inception Questacon has worked with various state science centres on a range of projects including shared development and production of exhibitions.

Most recently, all state science centres were part of a National Reference Group which commissioned the recent study entitled “Reaching All Australians” – a report on delivering science, mathematics, engineering and technology (SMET) education and awareness programs to regional, rural and remote Australia.

The NRG was established by Questacon with Australia-wide representation from science centres, museums, CSIRO science education centres, universities and independent providers of SMET education and awareness programs.

The report recommended a national framework of action to bring together national, state and local resources to address the gaps experienced by regional, rural and remote schools and communities across Australia. The framework would deliver based on a ‘national strategy/local delivery’ model. An interim National Working Group comprised of SMET representatives, including state science centres has been established to commence development of a national framework of action.

Australasian Science and Technology Exhibitors Network (ASTEN)

Questacon and state science centres are members of ASTEN, along with other Australian museums and science centres and museums in New Zealand. ASTEN provides a forum for science and technology exhibitors to discuss issues of common interest via newsletters, an annual conference and specialist working groups.

Asia Pacific Network of Science Technology Centres (ASPAC)

ASPAC was formed in 1997 to facilitate communication and cooperation amongst centres, museums and other organisations that use interactive approaches to encourage excellence and innovation in informal learning and the public understanding of science and technology in the Asia Pacific region. Questacon and several state science centres are members and collaborate in various fora and on various projects.