

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

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

Outcome: 1
Output Group: ARC

DEST Question No. E812_04

Senator Harradine provided in writing.

Question:

Has the Australian Research Council made any research grants to the company Bresagen for projects yet to be completed? If so, what are they and how much money has been committed to each project? What steps are you taking to protect public funds, given Bresagen is in voluntary administration?

Answer:

ARC Funding to Bresagen

ARC has provided the following response:

Bresagen, previously one of Australia's stem cell companies, announced on 20 January 2004 that it had placed itself into voluntary administration in Australia and was seeking to restructure its activities. Bresagen's former CEO is now actively involved in Bresagen's US subsidiary.

The Australian Research Council has not provided any research grants to Bresagen, as the company is not eligible to receive ARC grant funding.

As a collaborating organisation, Bresagen has contributed financially to a number of now-completed ARC funded research grants.

Bresagen committed to providing support in the initial three years of The Centre for Molecular Genetics of Development (CMGD), established in 2000 at The University of Adelaide through the Special Research Centre scheme of the ARC. The CMGD was established to work towards a molecular understanding of the mechanisms that govern the behaviour of cells during development. In 2002, the Centre expanded to include developmental studies being carried out at The Australian National University. While the ARC continues financial support of \$1.3 million per annum for the CMGD, Bresagen support for the Centre ceased as planned in 2002.