

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2004-2005 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

DEST Question No. E179_05

Senator Carr provided in writing

Question:

Will any of the current HIFAR workers be downgraded or dismissed when the new reactor goes on line?

Answer:

Replacement Research Reactor – Staffing

ANSTO has provided the following response:

There are approximately 75 personnel who support HIFAR. Some are already involved in preparatory work for the RRR. Others will become more involved through training and commissioning in the coming months. Some have indicated their desire to retire in the next few years.

ANSTO anticipates that, in relation to HIFAR operators, new opportunities will exist in 2006 and beyond. It is not envisaged that there will be a need for involuntary terminations or reclassifications of these operators at the end of HIFAR operations.

Nevertheless, ANSTO anticipates that when the HIFAR reactor ceases to operate in 2006, there may be a need for a revised staff profile for the RRR. Accordingly, ANSTO has engaged a number of support staff on fixed term employment arrangements. These term arrangements cease in 2006. At that time, ANSTO will determine, in the light of operational needs, what offers of renewal are appropriate