

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE – QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2005-2006 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** CSIRO

**Output Group:** CSIRO

#### DEST Question No. E215\_06

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### **Question:**

Please provide a list of all training courses, retreats and similar events undertaken by management, executive staff, Board members, and Communications staff since 2000.

Please provide a list of all conferences, seminars and similar events attended by management, executive staff, Board members, and Communications staff since 2000.

Please provide the costs of each retreat, course, conference or similar events, including associated costs like travel etc.

#### **Answer:**

CSIRO has provided the following response.

*Training courses, retreats, conferences, seminars and similar events*

CSIRO is unable to answer this question for the following reasons:

1. CSIRO is a knowledge-based organisation, with many of its staff frequently involved in activities that could be described as “training courses, retreats, conferences, seminars and similar events”. Staff attendance at these events facilitates their scientific research, its promotion, communication and commercialisation. These activities include fully internal activities and externally arranged activities attended by individual staff. Attendance at these activities is an integral part of how CSIRO conducts its business on a day-to-day basis.
2. The activities listed potentially cover a huge number of activities in terms of size, scope, staff numbers involved and cost. Some of the activities will be formal and well documented while others will be informal and run at no cost. For many of these activities documentation will be hard or impossible to retrieve.
3. The personnel listed in the question (“management, executive staff, Board members and Communications staff since 2000”) cover a very large group. It includes staff in corporate and divisional areas, performing both scientific and non-scientific functions, as well as all staff who have been in these areas for the last five and a half years a significant number of whom have now left the Organisation and whose records of such activities are no longer accessible.
4. CSIRO does not have a data management system that captures reliable data on all the listed activities. Nor would we be able to manually check all financial records, individual personnel records, individual diaries and any other relevant historical information in a cost effective way to produce a response that we would be confident was accurate and comprehensive. We consider that it would be an unreasonable diversion of resources to attempt to do so.