

EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING

Outcome: CSIRO
Output Group: CSIRO

DEST Question No. E474_07

Senator Wong provided in writing.

Question:

31 May 2006, EWRE, p.13:

Senator WONG—*Without trying to put too fine a point on it, we have your office with annual costs of over \$1 million, with various components of that remuneration being housing, travel et cetera. Do you think the public and the organisation are getting value for money?*

Dr Garrett—*I think it must come back to what we are delivering. Looking at what this organisation is achieving, we have had 12 independent external reviews of our divisions in the last two years—independent international panels looking at the quality of our science and the impact of what we deliver—and we are shortly to release a flagship performance review, a copy of which we will obviously make sure you get at a very early stage. We want to be judged by the outputs of that program.*

Why was it undertaken? Was it a condition placed on CSIRO by the Government? Is it part of CSIRO's triennial funding agreement or the ongoing triennial funding negotiations?

Answer:

CSIRO has provided the following response.

Flagship Performance Review

CSIRO has a Triennium Funding Agreement (TFA) with the Australian Government – the current agreement covers the period from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2007. The decision to provide additional discrete funding for the Flagships Initiative over seven years included a requirement that this would be subject to review as part of CSIRO's proposal to government for funding for the 2007-08 to 2009-10 triennium.