

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION - CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATE WA

629. Hon BARRY HOUSE to the Leader of the House representing the Premier:

I refer to question on notice 4934, answered on 14 August 2007.

- (1) What is the individual value of each of the eight projects listed in question (5)?
- (2) Which Premiers Fellows have been appointed since the program was introduced, and when did they accept their positions?
- (3) What is the date of each funding round for the centres of excellence program, and what is the amount of each funding package since 2001?
- (4) What is the status of the current round of the centres of excellence program?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

I thank Hon Barry House for providing notice of the question. I am happy to advise that I now have an answer. I will answer parts (1) and (2) of the question. Parts (3) and (4) are quite lengthy and I will table those parts and seek leave to have them incorporated in *Hansard*.

- (1) The projects and the value of them are Child Health Research, \$1.710 million; Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing, \$997 600; Alzheimer's Disease Research and Care, \$1.3 million; Australian Consortium for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy, \$1.251 million; CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity, \$650 000; Centre for Applied Organic Geochemistry, \$1.219 million; Western Australian Centre of Excellence in Industrial Optimisation, \$680 000; and Centre for Management of Arid Environments, \$900 000.
- (2) The following people have been appointed Premier's Fellows: Professor Julian Gale, nanomaterials; Professor John Mackenzie, infectious diseases; Professor Ian Small, plant energy biology; Professor Klaus Regenauer-Lieb, structural geology; Professor Lister Staveley-Smith, radio astronomy; and Professor Peter Quinn, radio astronomy.

I table the balance of the answer and seek leave for the incorporation of parts (3) and (4) in *Hansard*.

Leave granted.

[See paper 3026.]

The following material was incorporated -

- (3) The State Funding Advisory Committee (SFAC) recommends to the Minister for Science which applicants to the Centres of Excellence Program should be funded. Since 2001 SFAC has recommended as follows:

Date of SFAC Meeting	Total Amount of Recommendations (\$)
7 October 2002	4,298,000
16 December 2002	4,573,000
20 June 2003	3,533,000
24 February 2004	6,824,000
12 August 2004	2,250,000
31 March 2005	15,381,000

All of the above SFAC recommendations were subsequently approved by the Minister for Science.

Prior to August 2004 applications were received as they were developed. The March 2005 recommendations were based on a 'funding round' with a set date for all intending applicants to submit an Expressions of Interest and short-listed applicants requested to submit full applications. Hence the March 2005 meeting considered a larger number of applications.

In addition, since the 31 March 2005 SFAC meeting, COE funds have been awarded to WA nodes of Commonwealth Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), and to successful Australian Research Council (ARC) COEs and Federation Fellows. Successful applications are as follows:

CRC, ARC approvals since 31 March 2005 SFAC Meeting	Total Amount of Approvals (\$)
2005	1,995,000
2006	4,141,000
2007	3,572,000

Extract from *Hansard*
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- (4) In the current round of the Centres of Excellence Program 33 Expressions of Interest have been considered by SFAC and seven of these have been selected to submit a full application for COE funding by 30 November 2007.
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