

SCIENCE AND INNOVATION - CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE AND INNOVATE WA - RECRUITMENT
4934. Hon Barry House to the Leader of the House representing the Premier

I refer to question without notice No. 330 from Tuesday 29 May 2007, and I ask -

- (1) What recruitment problems have led to delays for the Centres of Excellence and Innovate Western Australian funding?
- (2) Who needs to be recruited?
- (3) What position(s) need to be filled?
- (4) How many people need to be recruited?
- (5) Which projects have been delayed as a result of these problems?
- (6) What action is the Government taking to address these recruitment problems?

Hon KIM CHANCE replied:

Department of Industry and Resources advises:

- (1) The repositioning of funding due to recruitment delays is confined to the Centres of Excellence (COE) Program. WA universities, where Centres of Excellence are based, have difficulty in attracting and recruiting world-class scientific researchers.
- (2) Senior research scientists in the Bioinformatics field, Sustainable Resource Processing field, and the Gravitational Wave field.
- (3) The following positions need to be filled:
The COE - Child Health Research is seeking to employ a Senior Bioinformatician and a Bioinformatics Analyst.
The COE - Cooperative Research Centre for Sustainable Resource Processing is seeking to employ a Senior Research Fellow in Processing Residue Research.
The COE - Australian Centre for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy is seeking to employ a Research Director.
- (4) At the present time, four senior scientific personnel need to be recruited.
- (5) The following eight projects have been delayed as a result of recruitment problems:
Centre of Excellence (COE) - Child Health Research;
COE - Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) in Sustainable Resource Processing;
COE - Alzheimer's Disease Research and Care;
COE - Australian Centre for Interferometric Gravitational Astronomy;
COE - CRC for Plant-based Management of Dryland Salinity;
COE - Applied Organic Geochemistry;
COE - Western Australian Centre of Excellence in Industrial Optimisation; and
COE - Centre for Management of Arid Environments.
- (6) At the individual project level the Government takes into account the possible delays inherent in the recruitment process with contract arrangements which include a variation clause in the funding agreement reached with each COE.

In order to attract and retain world-class research scientists to Western Australia the State Government is committed to building a critical mass of scientific research infrastructure through funding such programs as the Centres of Excellence Program, the appointment of Premiers Fellows and the establishment of major research infrastructure including the WA Marine Science Institute, the Centre for Genomic Medicine, the WA Energy Research Alliance.