

Questacon

At the Forefront



Centenary of Federation

CSIRO, the largest scientific organisation in Australia, is a government funded authority undertaking research into a diverse range of science and technology.

WHAT WAS THE PROBLEM?

In the early 1900s, the Australian government needed to collect information about the state of scientific research in Australia and review the existing research.

A GREAT AUSSIE SOLUTION

The idea for a 'National Laboratory' began in 1916. Over the years, the organisation's purpose and name gradually changed to become the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, CSIRO. Today CSIRO has its corporate headquarters in Canberra, with research sites located all over Australia. It employs over 6 500 scientists and support staff.

WHAT DOES IT DO?

CSIRO undertakes research in the following areas:

- Agribusiness
- Built Environment
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Information Technology, Standards and Services
- Manufacturing
- Minerals and Energy
- Pharmaceuticals and Human Health
- Radio Astronomy

The organisation works in collaboration with many private corporations, producing innovative products that benefit millions of people around the world.

Some of CSIRO's innovations are featured in *Our Clever Country*, including polymer bank notes, Gene Shears, biological control of pests and involvement in space research. These are only a few of the many innovations developed by the organisation and CSIRO scientists continue to work at the forefront of science and technology research.

In addition to making new discoveries, CSIRO provides advice for the government on scientific matters. It also runs educational programs and a large publishing house of magazines and journals.

FURTHER INFO, FACTS & FUN

- For further info on CSIRO, check out: CSIRO home page <http://www.csiro.au>

For more info on great Australian Science check out:

Questacon's Innovative Australians <http://www.questacon.edu.au/innovaus>

CSIRO's Australia Advances <http://www.csiro.au/promos/ozadvances>

The Australian Academy of Science's Nova <http://www.science.org.au/nova>

The Australian Science Archive Project <http://www.asap.unimelb.edu.au/>