

Answer to question 11:

MM: [In] Phase 1 we will investigate, preliminary investigations of matters which is primarily about getting information and documents from the person who comes to us, witnesses if they've got witnesses people who want to share the story as well and documents primarily from CSIRO. So we do that preliminary information gathering. People, it's in the terms of reference, um and again, this was something that it was important for us to put in, that people will be told the outcome. So everyone who makes a submission to us will be told, will get a response. And for people who make a detailed submission that can go through to Phase 2, too, that's going to be a different response to someone who may have a general submission that's picked up in systemic issues, orally, things like that, but everyone will get a response.

VoC: Including for the phase 2 portion? So if you're not allowed to comment on whether, you know, the accused is still employed by CSIRO then you can't say whether that is going to be investigated, has been investigated, or not.

MM: uh...

VoC: Isn't that true?

MM: well, privacy is considerations of the law, the Privacy Act governs what people can be told, and again it was important to us to put up front, and I think this is in our FAQ document in particular, that at the end of phase 2, people may not be able to be told exactly what's happened, and that's because of the privacy law, um

VoC: But it's not very transparent though is it?

MM: It is.

VoC: But certainly for someone who is gone through ah, taking the decision to relive their traumatic experiences to send you stuff and just get nothing (multiple people talking, inaudible)

MM: we can't change the privacy law.

VoC: CSIRO's internal process in formal grievances is to provide the report to both the respondent and the applicant, so um, yeah...

MM: we will do as much as we legally can.

DP: Well, well we'll do our best to get around those as issues

MM: And again, in the Defence Review it was the same problem, people raise a complaint and then they're not give proper information about the outcome. That was one of the

systemic issues that we identified in the Defence Review. We made a recommendation that Defence needs to look at that, and look at its instructions to people about what it can tell people. That might be the same sort of systemic issue that we identify here, when people raise a grievance or there is a misconduct process, at the end of it, the person who's made the complaint will put their heart and their life on the line and even doesn't get told much: is CSIRO telling people as much as it legally can? Does it need to go and look at the law around those privacy disclosures because in fact it could be telling people more? That's the sort of issue we'll be looking at in systemic issues as well.