



Chubb: no death threats in emails

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CHIEF Scientist Ian Chubb says he stands by his decision to relocate ANU climate scientists after they received threatening emails, but has admitted he never actually sighted the threats.

Appearing before a Senate estimates hearing, Professor Chubb said when he was vice-chancellor of the Australian National University in 2010, a senior member of his staff came to him with concerns from the institution's climate scientists over emails they had received and said they had also had "a couple of visits from people who had walked in off the street".

The staff member expressed a desire to have the climate scientists moved from their then-location, Professor Chubb said. "We looked at what we could do and we moved them. Senator, we did not make a fanfare, we did not go public. We simply moved them and got on with our business," he said in response to Liberal senator Scott Ryan's questioning.

"I did it then, and I'd do it today

if I was still vice-chancellor of the ANU . . . I was pleased I did it because I was a responsible employer. Their physical location was moved. They moved behind a door that had a swipe card access, rather than in a building that had four, maybe five, doorways open to the public."

Professor Chubb admitted he never saw the threatening emails. However, he denied any of them had included death threats as was widely reported. "They were at least abusive but let me be clear . . . I didn't read the emails. I trusted the man who came to me, he was a senior member of the staff and he represented concerns of the staff to me," Professor Chubb said.

"For the record, there were no alleged death threats except when journalists picked up the story."

Last week, the ABC issued a correction over its reports on the threats, acknowledging 11 emails sent to climate scientists at the ANU contained abuse, but no death threats.