

Australia-India Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement

Response to written questions on notice

Mr Chris Barnes, Head of Trade and International Affairs, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry

Questions

In the past, the ACCI has told the Committee small and medium-sized businesses may receive limited benefits from trade agreements because they are either unaware of the agreements, or judge that the difficulties of navigating the complexities of an agreement are not offset by any potential benefit they may obtain.

1. What are some of the difficulties small and medium-sized enterprises face in obtaining benefits from free trade agreements and why do larger enterprises not have these same issues?
2. What does the ACCI do to assist small and medium-sized enterprises to access benefits from trade agreements and more broadly what can the Government do to ensure benefits are not concentrated in big businesses?
3. What are the potential benefits the AI-ECTA could bring to small and medium-sized enterprises?

Response

The Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) as the largest business organisation in the country represents businesses, both large and small, across all industry sectors.

It is important to make sure that all businesses in Australia benefit from and are made aware of the potential benefits of all trade agreements.

ACCI works with all of the state and territory chambers of commerce, industry associations and government agencies including DFAT, Austrade and state governments to provide advice on the benefits of the agreements and practical assistance in how to maximise those benefits.

AI-ECTA will directly provide market access benefits for both exporters and importers, small and large, especially in the goods sector.