

Committee Name
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources
Inquiry into the Australian manufacturing industry
08 December 2021

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, SCIENCE, ENERGY AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: Departmental Process

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 08 December 2021, Page 58)

QUESTION No.: 4

ACTING CHAIR: Perhaps the department could take that on notice and also perhaps take on notice my broader question as to what process the department goes through when it's faced with these situations, in terms of how it responds, how it analyses the situation and what it actually does in practice when these sorts of situations come to light. Is that possible?

Ms Looney: Yes. We can take that on notice.

ANSWER

In the case of a major business closure or retrenchment, the Department of Industry, Science, Energy and Resources (the Department) works closely with the Department of Education, Skills and Employment (DESE) to undertake an analysis of the numbers, skills and location of affected workers and to connect businesses and workers with the Government's employment services.

DESE contacts employers retrenching staff through an on-the-ground Transition Support Network made up of representatives from its national, state and territory offices together with Employment Facilitators. The network works closely with Services Australia and state and territory governments to promote support that is available, including the national employment service, jobactive. jobactive provides access to tailored help based on assessed need, including help looking for work; writing a resume and preparing for interviews; referrals to jobs in the local area; training that is suited to the skills that local employers need; and case management, so that individuals are ready to take-up and keep a job.

Longer term, the Department works on creating an environment conducive to diverse business opportunities and growth, innovation and competitiveness. The Department administers a range of Australian Government initiatives that support businesses to become globally competitive, build scale, improve resilience and transition. While individual businesses have responsibility to make decisions to enhance their productivity and future sustainability, they are encouraged to take advantage of the support provided.