

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio
2023 - 2024 Budget Estimates

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: Department of Industry, Science and Resources

OUTCOME: Corporate

TOPIC: Government spend on R&D

REFERENCE: Spoken Question (Hansard Page 23) – Senator David Shoebridge

QUESTION DATE: 01 June 2023

QUESTION No.: BI-18

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: The Australian Academy of Science data suggests that the direct government spend on R&D is just either 0.49 per cent of GDP or 0.51 per cent of GDP. When you were pulling the budget together, did you have a figure?

Ms Quinn: We certainly looked at what we were doing within our portfolio, and the budget tables that I have just referred to, which we pulled together as an organisation, have the 2022-23 number, which corresponds to the number you just read out—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: Which one of them?

Ms Quinn: So 0.49 per cent in 2022-23 is the total government investment. I would just point out that there's more than just government investment in—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: We'll come to that. But 0.49 per cent—that would be the lowest on record, wouldn't it, as a proportion of GDP? It's a record low.

Ms Quinn: I don't actually have that in my briefing as flagged. I'd be happy to take that on notice. I don't currently have this. And my colleagues who—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: I'm not asking you to go back to 1849—

Ms Quinn: No, no, and—

Senator SHOEBRIDGE: In the last 30 years, that would be the lowest, wouldn't it?

Ms Quinn: I don't know, to be honest. It is down from 2021-22. But we're expecting our colleagues who put together the tables to appear in the next estimates section, and they will be able to answer questions of detail around the historical tracking of that particular measure.

ANSWER

The Australian Academy of Science is quoting the 0.49 per cent of GDP statistic from the 2022-23 Science Research and Innovation (SRI) Budget Tables published in April 2023. The 2023-24 edition of the tables based on the May 2023-24 Budget are currently being compiled.

The 0.49 per cent of GDP in the 2022-23 financial year was the lowest in the last 30 years.