

Question on notice no. 1

Portfolio question number: BI-01

2023-24 Budget estimates

Economics Committee, Industry, Science and Resources Portfolio

Senator Linda Reynolds: asked the Department of Industry, Science and Resources on 5 June 2023—

- (1.How does the Department ensure effective communication and support for organizations and businesses that have received funding through the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, now that funding is no longer provided under the new Government?
- 2.Is the Department aware of grant recipients who are underperforming on their duties?
- 3.How does the Department monitor the performance of grant recipients?
- 4.How does the Department identify instances of underperforming?
- 5.What procedures are in place for reporting a grant recipient believed to be underperforming, and how does the Department handle and investigate such reports?
- 6.Regarding the Collaboration Stream of the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, what steps does the Department take if a collaborative partner of a grant recipient is no longer able to fulfill their obligations under the grant?
- 7.Is there a process or mechanism in place to allow another project or organization to take over the grant if a collaborative partner drops out due to their inability to meet their obligations?

Answer —

Please see attachment.

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: Modern Manufacturing Initiative – Collaboration stream

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Linda Reynolds

QUESTION DATE: 05 June 2023

QUESTION No.: BI-01

1. How does the Department ensure effective communication and support for organizations and businesses that have received funding through the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, now that funding is no longer provided under the new Government?
2. Is the Department aware of grant recipients who are underperforming on their duties?
3. How does the Department monitor the performance of grant recipients?
4. How does the Department identify instances of underperforming?
5. What procedures are in place for reporting a grant recipient believed to be underperforming, and how does the Department handle and investigate such reports?
6. Regarding the Collaboration Stream of the Modern Manufacturing Initiative, what steps does the Department take if a collaborative partner of a grant recipient is no longer able to fulfill their obligations under the grant?
7. Is there a process or mechanism in place to allow another project or organization to take over the grant if a collaborative partner drops out due to their inability to meet their obligations?

ANSWER

1. The department is continuing to deliver the three streams (Integration, Translation, and Collaboration) of the Modern Manufacturing Initiative (MMI), involving \$867.1 million across 91 individual grant agreements. The department has regular contact with the grantees, through quarterly progress reports and ad-hoc engagement on specific issues as needed. Applicants who were unsuccessful in obtaining grant funding were provided information about alternative grant opportunities and initiatives relevant to their proposals.
2. No.
3. As a condition of funding, grant recipients are required to report quarterly on the progress of their projects. The department monitors progress of projects against the grant agreement milestones and schedule of activities, drawing on the provided progress reports, phone and email contact, and site visits as required.
4. As above.
5. The department has a feedback and complaint form (<https://www.industry.gov.au/contact-us/feedback-and-complaints/feedback-and-complaint-form>) which can be used to provide feedback or make a complaint about the department's programs or services, including the performance of grant recipients. The submitted forms are forwarded to the relevant area for a

response, with the department aiming to resolve issues within 20 business days where possible. If the complaint includes suspected fraud or security breaches, the information is also forwarded to the Fraud and/or Security teams. The department's website also provides details on how to make direct contact with the Fraud and Security teams in the department.

6. While the MMI Collaboration Stream grants involve collaborative partnerships, a single grant recipient is required to take responsibility for delivering the entire project outcomes. If a collaborative partner withdrew from a project, the onus would be on the grant recipient to continue meeting the agreed project outcomes.
7. Should a collaborative partner withdraw from a project, it is incumbent on the grantee to ensure it continues to meet project objectives and obligations under the grant agreement. This may require the grantee to source an alternative delivery partner.