

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates

26 February 2014

Question: AET 1876-1877

Topic: Deregulation (ABS)

Written: 7 March 2014

Senator BUSHBY asked:

1876. What consultative mechanisms did you previously have in your portfolio that gave feedback on red tape? Did any of these forums make a focussed effort or an overt role to get feedback on red or green tape?
1877. In the past year what was the extent of union involvement in consultative mechanisms within your portfolio and how has the level of union input changed over the past decade?

Answer:

1876. Through the following mechanisms, the ABS makes a focussed and overt effort to obtain feedback about reducing the reporting burden on survey participants:
- statistical user groups where key stakeholders can give feedback to the ABS on issues, including respondent burden;
 - the Statistical Clearing House for minimising unnecessary collection of data from business surveys;
 - the 'Survey participant Information' section of the ABS Website; and
 - the feedback mechanism on the 'Contact us' section of the ABS Website.
- These mechanisms are not new initiatives, for instance the Statistical Clearing House has been in place since 1997.
1877. Representatives of unions are a component of the ABS consultative framework, and this framework has not changed over the past decade.