

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Additional Budget Estimates
11 February 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Innovation and Science Australia

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 11 February 2016, page 92)

QUESTION No.: AI-15

Senator KIM CARR: The government has made a decision to allocate \$8.1 million to this project.

Ms Beauchamp : Indeed.

Senator KIM CARR: What does the government expect it to be spent on?

Ms Beauchamp : It is to provide core operational funding for the board and the CEO and to develop the work plan and other priorities, as was announced last December.

Senator KIM CARR: Where will it be located?

Ms Beauchamp : That is to be determined.

Senator KIM CARR: How much is in there for rent?

Ms Beauchamp : Those issues are to be determined once the CEO is in office.

Senator KIM CARR: How did you persuade Finance on the \$8.1 million if you are so vague about how it is going to be spent?

Ms Beauchamp : I did not mean to appear vague. I think there is a clear work program and a clear purpose of the ISA board, the CEO and the office, and we made an estimate in terms of the core staffing requirements, particularly to support the governance and operational aspects.

Senator KIM CARR: So what is the core staffing requirement, then? What number?

Ms Beauchamp : There are currently five, but I would have to have a look at it.

Senator KIM CARR: What is the core, though? Is that the full complement?

Mr Hazlehurst : We do not have that detail here today. We are happy to take that on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you.

Ms Beauchamp : We are happy to take that on notice, but I just want to add that I expect the office to draw on skills and expertise from both other agencies and outside in terms of supporting its operations.

ANSWER

The budget for the Office of Innovation and Science Australia includes base funding for a Chief Executive Officer and six permanent staff. Additional staff, including secondees from other departments and agencies, are expected to join the Office as required for specific tasks.