

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates
31 May – 1 June 2017

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre

REFERENCE: Questions on Notice (Hansard, 1 June 2017, page 92)

QUESTION No.: BI-51

Senator XENOPHON: There is a difference, Chair, between a prop and research material. There is a big distinction between them. I am not actually going to ask about country-of-origin labelling. I want to go to the issue of industry policy following on from Senator Carr's line of questioning. The new budget year has not commenced, but I would like to ask about the preparation and planning of the advanced manufacturing measures announced in the budget. Can you advise what planning is taking place within the department to enable the efficient rollout of the stimulating advanced manufacturing research projects program?

Dr Richards: There are two elements to the research funds. There is the advanced manufacturing top-up fund for the Cooperative Research Centres project activity. That will commence reasonably shortly with a specific call for those projects. We are also moving through—

Senator XENOPHON: So is 'shortly' in the next month?

Dr Richards: It will be in a month or so. The small grants will be administered through the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre. We are going through the discussions with the growth centre about variations to existing contracts et cetera to allow the transfer of that money and then the dispersment.

Senator XENOPHON: So small grants are defined as to what size? Are these up \$100,000?

Dr Richards: That has not been finally determined yet.

Senator XENOPHON: If you could take on notice: when will it be determined; what size will the grants be, so that we know what the parameters are; and will these grants be implemented in rounds as well? Will there be several rounds? What are you anticipating?

Dr Richards: We would expect several rounds.

ANSWER

While grants will be for a minimum of \$100,000, further details on the parameters of the initiative are the subject of consultation with relevant stakeholders, including the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre, so are yet to be finalised. The funding will be provided to the Advanced Manufacturing Growth Centre via a variation to its existing funding agreement. The Government expects the Advanced Manufacturing Early Stage Research Fund to commence in the next few months.