

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2014 - 2015

**Department/Agency: PC**

**Question: SBT3444-3445**

**Topic: Self Initiated Work**

**Reference: Written - 30 October 2014**

**Senator: Ludwig, Joe**

**Question:**

3444. Does the department/agency have a program for staff to engage in self-initiated work (projects, plans etc that are devised by staff without being directed by the minister's office or department management)?
3445. Please list all ongoing projects. For each, please detail:
- When did the project commence?
  - When is it expected to conclude?
  - What will the total cost of the project be?
  - Where did the money for the project come from?
  - Where is the project based?

**Answer:**

As at 30 October 2014:

3444. One of the Commission's functions, specified in the *Productivity Commission Act 1998*, is to undertake research on issues relating to industry, industry development and productivity. This research supports and complements the Commission's core functions of conducting public inquiries and studies commissioned by the Government. This research is overseen by the Commission's research committee.
3445. a) The Commission has recently commenced four new major research projects, on: International Tourism, Gas Markets, Housing Assistance and Productivity in the Finance and Insurance Services Industry. Full details on these projects are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/research>.
- b) As above.
- c) Full details on review costs are reported in the Commission's Annual Report each year.
- d) The Commission receives a single budget appropriation annually, from which it meets the costs of its work.
- e) Full details on these projects are available at <http://www.pc.gov.au/research>.