

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

2015 - 2016

Department/Agency: Productivity Commission

Question: SBT 57

Topic: Work program

Reference: Hansard page no. 15 - 21 October 2015

Senator: Canavan, Matthew

Question:

Senator CANAVAN: Thank you for that. Moving on, I think it is worthwhile giving you an opportunity at these appearances to outline your current work program to us. We can publicly see what you are doing in terms of inquiries and also the research you are currently undertaking. In terms of the balance of your resources between inquiries and research, where are you sitting currently?

Ms Davidson: At the moment, in addition to workplace relations, which we have been talking about this morning, we have a study underway looking at barriers to service exports. We also have a study under way looking at public safety mobile broadband. There is an inquiry running examining migrant intake into Australia and also an inquiry on intellectual property arrangements. That is the commissioned work that we have underway at the moment. In terms of our research program, the self-initiated work that we are doing, we have a project underway at the moment looking at housing decisions of older Australians. In terms of the split between the resources of our work, that is something that I would need to take on notice.

Answer:

SBT 57.

As at 21 October 2015, projects commissioned by the Government were:

- Review of Workplace Relations Framework inquiry
- Barriers to Growth in Australian Services Exports study
- Public Safety Mobile Broadband study
- Migrant Intake into Australia inquiry
- Australia's Intellectual Property Arrangements inquiry

The self-initiated research projects were:

- Housing Decisions of Older Australians
- Development in Anti-Dumping Arrangements
- Indigenous Primary School Education Outcomes: Key Contributors

The Commission's resources are mainly directed towards Government commissioned projects. Around three-quarters of resources directly attributable across the above projects were allocated to those commissioned by Government and one quarter to self-initiated projects. These ratios vary from time-to-time depending on the nature, scope and timing of projects commissioned by Government.