

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2016-17**

Finance Portfolio  
18 October 2016

**Department/Agency:** Department of Finance

**Outcome/Program:** 2/2.5

**Topic:** Quantity of locally produced and sourced goods and services

**Senator:** Xenophon

**Question reference number:** F25

**Type of question:** Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 74, 18 October 2016

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer:** Friday, 2 December 2016

**Number of pages:** 1

**Question:**

**Senator XENOPHON:** ... Can you indicate, Mr Sheridan, as to whether the department has undertaken analysis to determine how difficult and how expensive it would be to actually determine how much of those 94 per cent of contracts awarded to Australian suppliers with the \$60 billion we spend of taxpayers' money on procuring goods and services that are actually locally produced and locally sourced goods and services?

**Senator Cormann:** We believe it is unquantifiable, but we will take that on notice and see to what extent we can make the—

...

**Senator Cormann:** I have indicated to you what the government's answer is. We will see, on notice, whether—

**Senator XENOPHON:** But you do not ask the question, do you? You cannot quantify it because you will not ask the question.

**CHAIR:** Senator Xenophon, the minister has agreed to take it on notice and I am sure he will come back to you if he has an answer...

**Answer:**

In 2015-16 the Commonwealth contracted with over 10,790 unique businesses, entering into over 70,330 contracts (valued at or above \$10,000).

94 per cent of these contracts were with Australian businesses. (Where Australian businesses are defined as those with an Australian Business Number and a business address in Australia.)

It is not feasible to determine the country of origin of all these goods and services and their components. This would involve an unreasonable diversion of departmental resources.