

Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications
Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings November 2013
Communications Portfolio
Department of Communications

Question No: 49

Program No. 1.2

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Topic: e-Government

Senator Lundy asked:

The new government's policy documents largely pointed to the National Digital Economy Strategy as being their basis, so I am very keen to explore, of the National Digital Economy Strategy, what will continue in its current form—and indeed what, if anything, has changed with the new government coming in.

Mr Clarke: I understand your question and it should be possible in due course to give you an accurate reconciliation, in essence, of it. But we are not able to give it to you at this estimates hearing because we are still working through the process of implementation plans for the incoming government's policy. When that has been decided and when the detailed implementation is worked through and announced, we will be in a position to give you that reconciliation.

Senator LUNDY: Thank you for taking that on notice. Could you provide it so that the program description of the previous government is effectively matched up with whatever is replacing it or it is set out whether it is continuing—so it is really clear.

Mr Clarke: Yes, I will seek to be as clear as I can be.

Answer:

The Australian Government has commenced the process of evaluating all digital skills, awareness and productivity programs to determine their effectiveness against stated objectives. The majority of evaluations are expected to be completed in 2014. Results from the evaluations will inform the development of the digital economy strategy that the government has committed to update during its first term.