

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Additional Estimates 2004-2005, 16 February 2005

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**OUTCOME/OUTPUT:** Outcome 2, Output 2.2  
**TOPIC:** ABS INNOVATION SURVEY AND PC INQUIRY ON R&D  
**REFERENCE:** WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**QUESTION No.34**  
(Written QON)

**Senator Campbell** asked:

At the June 2004 estimates hearings officers of the Department mentioned that the ABS was in the process of undertaking an innovation survey and that the Department was working closely with the Productivity Commission to look more closely at the links between R&D and economic growth in Australia. Are these projects now complete?

**ANSWER**

The ABS released the *Innovation in Australian Business Survey* on 17 February 2005.

The Productivity Commission project that commenced in 2004 is still in progress. The first publication, examining trends in Australia's R&D activity is expected in April 2005 and further analysis of the effect of R&D activity on Australia's economic performance is expected mid-2005. The Department has undertaken a set of interviews with firms that undertake R&D as an input to the Productivity Commission project.