

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 16 February 2006

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**TOPIC:** REGULATORY BURDEN ON SMALL BUSINESS  
**REFERENCE:** WRITTEN QUESTIONS

**QUESTION No.AI-99**

**Senator Campbell** asked:

What government department is the worst offender, when it comes to small business red tape?

**ANSWER**

The OSB does not collect this information.

International studies have generally concluded that Australia's regulatory system performs well internationally. For example, a World Bank study, *Doing Business in 2006*, considered the time and cost involved in over 155 countries in performing essential business activities (such as starting a business, hiring workers and enforcing contracts). This report rated Australia as sixth best.

In fact, with regulatory procedures taking just two days and zero minimum capital requirements, Australia has been assessed as one of the easiest place in the world to start a business (World Bank, 2005).