

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing
26 February 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Drivetrain

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: AI-29

What discussions have you had with Drivetrain about their situation?

Please detail the dates on which Minister Carr has had discussions with this company.

Why has the government failed to do anything to assist this company?

ANSWER

Senator Carr has not had any discussions with Drivetrain Systems International (DSI) about its situation. However, both the Minister's Office and the Department have been in regular contact with DSI and its Administrators.

DSI has received a very significant amount of financial assistance from the Government through the Automotive Competitiveness and Investment Scheme.

The Government has in place a number of labour market assistance arrangements which are available to workers made redundant at DSI. These include the Automotive Industry Structural Adjustment Program and the Productivity Places Program.

On 10 March 2009, the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister for Employment & Workplace Relations, the Hon Julia Gillard MP, announced that she has used her discretion to approve pre-liquidation eligibility for redundant DSI workers to access payments through the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS).