

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Commercialisation Australia (CA)

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI-56

Are there any other departmental programs involved in the promotion or administration of Commercialisation Australia?

Have guidelines been established for the program?

When was the budget allocated?

What are the costs of administering the program and what are the staffing numbers?

If there has been any delay between when the budget was allocated and when applications were sought, why?

Have any applications been approved? If so provide details of each application?

If no applications yet approved when will they start being approved?

What is the cost of preparing an application?

ANSWER

Yes, for example AusIndustry, the program delivery division of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research, is assisting with the promotion and administration of Commercialisation Australia. AusIndustry delivers various other programs (eg R&D Tax Concession) and its State and Territory Offices ensure that advice on Commercialisation Australia is provided to customers. Also, departmental websites that refer to other programs – AusIndustry, Enterprise Connect, IP Australia and business.gov.au – promote Commercialisation Australia. The Commercialisation Australia Hotline service is coordinated between Commercialisation Australia, AusIndustry and the Small Business Support line.

Yes. Program Guidelines were approved on 18 December 2009. Customer Information Guidelines have also been developed. Both are available on Commercialisation Australia's website www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au.

In May 2009-10 Budget.

The Department has funding of \$26.128 million (GST exclusive) to administer the program over the four years from 2009-10 to 2012-13. This will fund 201.9 ASL staff over the four years.

No, there has been no delay. The budget is allocated from 2009/10 and the program commenced in 2009-10 with applications called for on 4 January 2010. Minister Carr advised that the program would be operational in early 2010 when he announced its design in October 2009.

The program opened to applications on 4 January 2010 and as at 31 January 2010, no applications had been approved.

The Commercialisation Australia Board met on 4 March and 30 March 2010 to assess applications. The Board will meet every month to assess the merit of applications. Approval of applications follows the assessment process and successful applicants have 30 days in which to sign contracts. Once contracts are signed, details of approved applications will be publicly available on the Department's website.

There is no cost to the applicant in obtaining an application form, which can be downloaded from the web or collected at an AusIndustry Office. Any cost to the applicant is in terms of the time he/she spends in developing their application. AusIndustry customer service managers and Commercialisation Australia case managers provide assistance to the applicants at no cost to the applicant.