

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2010-11
23 February 2011

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Small Business Advisory Committee

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Ryan

QUESTION No.: AI-39

1. What is the expected cost of operating the secretariat and the committee?
2. How much are members of the Committee remunerated?
3. What were the costs of travel/teleconferencing by the Committee members for the June meeting?
4. Will minutes of the meeting be made available to the public? Can the Department provide copies of the meeting minutes?
5. How does the Small Business Advisory Committee determine whether or not a piece of legislation is “likely to have a significant impact on small business”?
6. What are the criteria for determining if legislation is likely to have a significant impact on business?
7. How many pieces of legislation has the Small Business Advisory Committee provided regulatory impact statements for since its inception?
8. Can the Department provide a list of the legislation for which the SBAC has provided an Regulatory Impact Statement?
9. Has the Small Business Advisory Committee provided a RIS on the R&D Tax Credit legislation?
10. Has the Small Business Advisory Committee provided a RIS on the proposed increase in superannuation from 9% to 12%?

ANSWER

1. The projected cost of the SBAC for two years is \$457,259.10 (GST exclusive).
2. Members are remunerated comparable to specified part-time office positions paid for under the Remuneration Tribunal Determination. This equates to \$739.10 per day (GST exclusive) and nine per cent (\$66.52 GST exclusive) superannuation for each review they conduct and expenses (if any were incurred).

3. The estimated cost of travel for the Committee members for the June 2010 meeting was \$5,818.03 (GST exclusive). No teleconferencing costs were incurred at the meeting.
4. SBAC meeting minutes are not intended for public release, they are for distribution to members only. No, as stated they are not intended for public release.
5. Under the Government's Best Practice Regulation framework, the Office of Best Practice Regulation (OBPR) decides if a RIS is required, not SBAC. Two criteria determine the likelihood of a policy proposal having a significant impact on small business: the number of businesses that will be affected, and the impact the regulation will have on small business.
6. The SBAC may be asked to review a Regulation Impact Statement (RIS) where the proposal has at least a medium/high impact for a medium/high number of businesses; or is likely to be particularly burdensome or costly for a low number of businesses.
7. The SBAC has provided input on one RIS.
8. The SBAC does not provide a regulatory impact statement, it provides input on RISs. No, as the one RIS considered to date remains Cabinet-in-Confidence.
9. The SBAC has not provided input on the RIS as a RIS was not required for this proposal.
10. The SBAC has not provided input on the RIS. The proposal occurred prior to the formation of the SBAC. The proposed increase of superannuation from nine per cent to 12 per cent was announced by the Australian Government on 2 May 2010 in the *Stronger, Fairer, Simpler tax plan*. The Department of the Treasury has policy responsibility for superannuation matters.