

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: Book Industry Strategy Group

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: AI-72

1. In the weeks leading up to 17 February 2010, was the Minister's office or the Department given any forewarning of the impending action to place Redgroup Retail (and therefore Borders and Angus & Robertson stores across Australia) in administration? If so, who and when?
2. According to the Department's website, the Book Industry Strategy Group received 90 responses to its call for submissions about the industry's future. What is the breakdown (by industry subcategory – book publishers, retailers, authors and so forth) of who provided them? And how many included criticism of the Government's policies?
3. Why have these submissions not been made available publicly yet?

ANSWER

1. No, the Department was not given any forewarning of the decision to place REDgroup Retail in administration in the weeks leading up to 17 February 2011, nor is the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research aware of any advice provided to the Minister's Office on the impending action to place REDgroup Retail into administration in the weeks leading up to 17 February 2011 (noting the question has been answered on the basis that the date was 2011, not 2010 as indicated in the question).

2. As of 17 March 2011, the Book Industry Strategy Group (BISG) had received 138 submissions.

The submission questionnaire asked respondents to identify which industry sub-category they associated with. Respondents were able to identify multiple sub-categories. The resulting breakdown of sub-categories identified by respondents is therefore:

- 59 'individual' submissions;
- 18 'library' submissions;
- 3 'government' submissions;
- 6 'research institution' submissions;
- 19 'educational institution' submissions;
- 16 'author' submissions;
- 22 'publishers' submissions;
 - 1 'Foreign independent Publisher',
 - 16 'Australian independent' Publishers, and
 - 5 'Associated Publishers'.

- 10 'Retailer' submissions;
- 3 'Printers' submissions;
- 3 'Distributor' submissions;
- 18 'Industry Associations';
 - 7 'book' industry, and
 - 11 'other' industry.
- 6 'community organisation' submissions; and
- 15 'not specified' submissions.

The Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research is not in a position to make value judgements about what constitutes criticism and notes that the majority of submissions are available on the Department's website.

3. As of 17 March 2011, of the 138 submissions received:

- 104 are publicly available through the Department's website;
- 22 are listed but are not publicly available (21 were confidential submissions and the Department is seeking advice on the content of one); and
- 12 have been received but have yet to be listed.