

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: Program funding

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: AI-79

1. What action is taken to check the background of the businesses and the individuals to whom grants are paid under the Department's programs?
2. Are there ASIC checks performed on the businesses and/or each of the applicants and/or each of the project proponents, for instance?

ANSWER

1. As part of the assessment process of applications for financial assistance (ie, grants), the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research undertakes a range of background checks. These can include:
 - searching mercantile databases, such as ASIC and ABR, to establish:
 - whether the business exists;
 - if adverse notices about the applicant have been issued; and
 - the degree of relationship (if any) between the applicant, nominated referees, proposed suppliers and contractors associated with the project;
 - reviewing the applicant's financial records;
 - assessing the applicant's capability to achieve their proposed deliverables for the project;
 - contacting the referees nominated in the application;
 - checking an applicant's previous history with the Department;
 - internet searches of information about the applicant in the public domain;
 - reviewing the applicant's website to corroborate certain facts about the business; and
 - on occasion, visiting the applicant at their premises.
2. See answer to question 1 above.