

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2011-12
15 February 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Commercialisation Australia

REFERENCE: Question on Notice – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No: AI-163

What formal monitoring, audit and evaluation processes are used to track the progress and success (or otherwise) of grants made through the Commercialisation Australia program?

ANSWER

The Commercialisation Australia funding agreement requires grantees to prepare and submit reports to the Commonwealth. These reports identify project progress and expenditure for a given reporting period.

Grantees are required to provide the following progress reports:

- quarterly progress reports - grant payments are based on these reports, taking into account achievement of project milestones; and
- end of project/component audited financial report.

There are provisions within the funding agreement for projects to be terminated if they are not achieving agreed milestones.

The program also collects policy data to evaluate the program and shape its strategic direction. In general, grantees are required to provide the following data reports:

- baseline report - at the time of signing the funding agreement;
- interim report - after 12 months (if applicable);
- completion report - after the project is completed and no longer receives Commercialisation Australia funding assistance; and
- annual post project reports - for 5 years after project completion.

The ‘Guide to Managing Your Grant’, which is available from the Commercialisation Australia website (www.commercialisationaustralia.gov.au), provides grantees with further information about their reporting obligations.

From time to time, Commercialisation Australia will evaluate whether the program is achieving its objectives. Commercialisation Australia may contact grantees up to five years after the completion of the project and ask the grantee to complete a survey, or provide other relevant information to assist with an evaluation.