

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2012-13
13 February 2013

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

TOPIC: PM's Manufacturing Taskforce and SMEs consulted

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard. 13 February 2013, page 33)

QUESTION No.: AI-12

Senator RYAN: The Prime Minister's taskforce did not include any specific consultation with small business. Did you undertake any specific consultation with small business as part of the development of this, or is there any ongoing dialogue?

Mr Kennedy: There has certainly been ongoing dialogue. I will just turn to Mr Chesworth to talk about any specific consultation.

Mr Chesworth: I headed the secretariat for the Prime Minister's taskforce. We conducted consultations with over 70 groups. Some were representative groups and some were individual businesses. Some were representative groups that actually brought along businesses as well. I would not have the exact number of SMEs, but I could have a check of that for you. There was small business representation on the taskforce itself, both through industry associations and through members.

ANSWER

The secretariat for the PM's Manufacturing taskforce conducted consultations with nearly 70 groups. Several of the representative groups consulted have small businesses as members. The Australian Industry Group, an industry association representing small, medium and large businesses across a range of industries, was represented on the PM's Manufacturing Taskforce.

There is ongoing dialogue with small businesses through the department's Small Business Division, the Small Business Commissioner and Office of the Small Business Commissioner.