

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: R&D tax incentives

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-165

1. On what dates during 2012 and 2013 has the Department provided written advice to (a) Minister Combet and (b) any other Minister about any aspects of possible changes to the operation of business R&D tax incentives?
2. On 17 February 2013, the Government announced that it had chosen to exclude certain businesses from access to the R&D Tax Incentive on the basis of the level of their turnover. Has the Department provided a written briefing(s) at any time to Minister Combet about alternatives to this policy option, including the possible placement of caps on the entitlements of the highest-claiming businesses to the R&D Tax Incentive? If so, on what date(s)?
3. Was the Department asked by the Government to contact any companies and/or other stakeholders in the lead-up to the release of the Industry and Innovation Statement? If so, (a) when; (b) how many companies and/or other stakeholders were contacted, and on what date(s); and (c) what was the purpose of this contact?
4. On what date, and at what time on that day, were final versions of the so-called ‘A Plan for Australian Jobs’ document provided to (a) the Prime Minister’s office and (b) the Industry Minister’s office?
5. On how many occasions (and on what dates) have print runs of the ‘A Plan for Australian Jobs’ document been ordered – and how many copies have been ordered (and what has been the full cost) on each of those occasions? Has the Department disposed of multiple copies of the document at any time – and, if so, when, how many and why?

ANSWER

1. The dates on which briefing was provided to the Minister cannot be disclosed as it relates to the deliberation of Cabinet.
2. The content of briefing relating to changes to the R&D Tax Incentive and dates on which briefing was provided to the Minister cannot be disclosed as it relates to the deliberation of Cabinet.
3. a) The request to contact stakeholders in the lead-up to the release of the Industry and Innovation Statement was made to the Department on 14 February 2013.

- b) Ten stakeholders were contacted on the afternoon and evening of 16 February 2013.
 - c) The purpose of the contact was to inform the stakeholders of the upcoming release of the Industry and Innovation Statement.
4. The date on which the final version of *A Plan for Australian Jobs: The Australian Government's Industry and Innovation Statement* was provided to the Prime Minister and the Minister for Industry and Innovation cannot be disclosed as it relates to the deliberation of Cabinet.
 5. There has been one print run undertaken on 12 February 2012 for 2,000 copies of *A Plan for Australian Jobs: The Australian Government's Industry and Innovation Statement* at a cost of \$11,484.00 (GST inclusive). The Department has not disposed of any copies of this document.