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: Chief Scientist – National Mathematics and Science Education and Industry Adviser

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Mason

QUESTION No.: AI-69

In the 2012/13 Budget, the government committed $4.3 million for a "National Mathematics and Science Education and Industry Adviser".

a) What will be the specific responsibilities of the Adviser?

b) What will the Adviser do to promote science across education and industry?

ANSWER

a) The responsibility of the Adviser is to champion the role of mathematics, science and statistics across education and industry, and to work with these sectors to develop and provide policy advice to Government through the Chief Scientist.

b) The appointment of Dr Roslyn Prinsley as the National Mathematics and Science Education and Industry Adviser was announced in December 2012. Dr Prinsley commenced in the position on 12 February 2013.

Dr Prinsley is engaging closely with and providing advice to major programs arising from the announcement last year in response to the Chief Scientist's report *Mathematics, Engineering and Science in the National Interest*.

Dr Prinsley is commissioning research to fill significant gaps in our understanding of the place of STEM skills in the workforce and community. She is consulting with industry to better understand the role of science and mathematics in the workforce, with a view to encouraging education-industry partnerships.

Dr Prinsley is liaising with national science and mathematics teachers' professional associations to investigate and implement ways to support and strengthen the profession, and to encourage students at school to take up science and mathematics subjects.

She is actively working in partnership with stakeholders in the education, industry, academia and government sectors to look at ways to develop collaborative strategies for building a broader science, research and technology base in the workforce and community.