

1729

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates 2004-2005, 31 May 2004 to 2 June 2004

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**OUTCOME/OUTPUT:** Outcome 2, Outputs 2.1 and 2.2  
**TOPIC:** R&D START PROGRAM  
**REFERENCE:** HANSARD 31/5/04, PAGES E90-91, 93

**QUESTION No.10**  
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E90)

**Senator Carr** asked about:

Can I have a copy [of the review of the R&D Start Program that was undertaken in the context of the recent Backing Australia's Ability announcement]?

**ANSWER**

A copy of the R&D Start review has been provided to the Senate Economics Legislation Committee secretariat.

**QUESTION No.11**  
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E91)

**Senator Carr** asked about:

With regard to overpayments [under the R&D Start Program], you have identified overpayments to companies totalling \$232,500 [in 2003-04]. Did you have any other [over]payments in the previous year, back in 2002-03?

**ANSWER**

There were no overpayments in the 2002-03 financial year.

**QUESTION No.12**  
(Hansard 31/5/04, p.E93)

**Senator Carr** asked about:

In relation to an application for an R&D Start grant by a company called J and K Leather ... I have a copy of a letter here that is purported to be to the Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources, Victorian state office, dated 17 February 2004, specifically in relation to this grant ... Signed by the managing director, John Underwood ... It refers to grant application GRA03109 ... I am just wondering if you are able to provide the committee with a copy of your response to that letter?

**ANSWER**

A copy of the Department's response to John Underwood, Managing Director Australian Natural Products Pty Ltd (trading name J and K Leather Pty Ltd) is attached.

Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates 2004-2005, 31 May 2004 to 2 June 2004

Attachment

03/06/04 14:24 Pg:



Australian Government  
Department of Industry  
Tourism and Resources

GPO Box 9839  
Canberra ACT 2601 Australia  
Phone: 03 92687960  
Facsimile: +61 2 6213 7000  
Email: sbland@austindustry.gov.au  
Web: www.industry.gov.au  
ABN: 51 836 430 479

John Underwood  
Managing Director  
Australian Natural Products Pty Ltd  
2/206 Governor Road  
Braeside VIC 3195

Dear John

### R&D Start Grant Application

Thankyou for your letter dated February 17, 2004 in response to the Industry Research and Development Board's decision not to offer support for the proposed project - 'Integrated audio recognition control unit in recliner chair'.

As previously mentioned, for an application to be reconsidered by the Industry Research and Development Board, the applicant needs to address any issues raised by the Board fully and provide additional evidence to substantiate claims.

The Board considered that the application rated lowly against the technical strength and need for funding criteria in particular. Additional information that may assist your resubmission in these criteria is as follows:

#### Technical Strength:

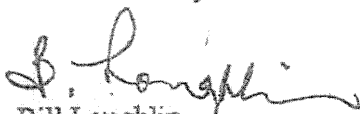
- An independent (arms length) technical analysis on the innovation and technical risk involved in the proposed project.

#### Need for Funding:

- Balance Sheet as at June 2003 (accountant prepared if possible)
- Interims (P&L and Balance Sheet) as at 31 December 2003
- Updated documentation for the approved Bank Loan of \$100,000

If you have any further questions, please call Stuart Bland on 03 9268 7950.

Yours sincerely

  
Bill Loughlin  
Deputy State Manager

26 February 2004