

QUESTION No.34

(Hansard 30/05/05, p.E104)

Senator Lundy asked about:

Have the Minister for Small Business and Tourism or the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources received any complaints or concerns from small businesses that they were misled about the access they would have to the US market under the AUSFTA?

ANSWER

The Department has received no such complaints from business on aspects of the Government procurement arrangements under the AUSFTA. Rather, the Financial Review (10 June 2005) recently published an article highlighting the successes of Australian companies, including SMEs in the ICT sector, in accessing the US procurement market since the introduction of the AUSFTA.

The Department is not aware of any such complaints being received by the Minister for Industry, Tourism and Resources or the Minister for Small Business and Tourism.