

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**OUTCOME/OUTPUT:** Outcome 1, Output 1.2  
**TOPIC:** DISABILITY DISCRIMINATION ACT – ACCESS TO PREMISES STANDARD  
**REFERENCE:** WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

**QUESTION No.61**  
(Written QON)

**Senator Campbell** asked:

- (a) What is the outcome of the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) access to premises standard deliberations by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) meeting of Thursday, 26 May?
- (b) Was the DDA access to premises standard to be recommended to federal Attorney-General Ruddock and Industry, Tourism and Resources Minister Macfarlane, finalised by the ABCB; and, if so, when will the Ministers receive the recommendation?

**ANSWER**

- (a) The Board has provided preliminary advice on the Premises Standard for Ministers' consideration.
- (b) The Board has provided preliminary advice to Ministers and is undertaking additional analysis and research on the Premises Standard and this will be presented to Ministers at a later date.

**QUESTION No.62**  
(Written QON)

**Senator Campbell** asked:

- (a) What standard, for each class of building and each building element considered for inclusion in the standard, did the ABCB, at its meeting on 26 May, decide to recommend to the two relevant federal Ministers (Attorney-General Ruddock and ITR Minister Macfarlane)?
- (b) How does the finalised DDA access to premises draft standard recommended to the federal Ministers by the ABCB differ from the draft standard which was released for consultation at the beginning of 2004?

**ANSWER**

- (a) This is a matter of ongoing Government policy consideration and it would therefore be inappropriate to disclose this information at the present time.
- (b) This is a matter of ongoing Government policy consideration and it would therefore be inappropriate to disclose this information at the present time.

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**BI 05/78c QUESTION No.63**  
(Written QON)

**Senator Campbell** asked:

Does the standard recommended to the federal Ministers by the ABCB provide equality of access for everyone to public and commercial buildings including workplaces (such as offices), in keeping with the objectives of the DDA and the Government's workforce participation policies for people with disabilities and older people?

**ANSWER**

The Government has previously indicated that any Premises Standard will be compliant with the DDA.

**BI 05/78d QUESTION No.64**  
(Written QON)

**Senator Campbell** asked:

- (a) Will state and territory building and planning Ministers be consulted about:
  - (i) the ABCB recommendation for the DDA Access to premises standard and, if so, when?
  - (ii) the Ministers' decision as to the DDA Access to premises standard to be presented to Parliament and, if so, when?
- (b) When will the Government present the DDA Access to premises standard to Parliament?

**ANSWER**

- (a) The Government intends to consult with state and territory governments after it has had an opportunity to undertake more detailed analysis of the options and to consider its own position on the matter.
- (b) The Department is unable to comment as this is an issue for the Government to determine.

**BI 05/78e QUESTION No.65**  
(Written QON)

**Senator Campbell** asked:

Will the Ministers ensure that equality of access for all is the overriding concern in the DDA Access to premises standard which will be presented to Parliament?

**ANSWER**

The Department is unable to comment on what decisions Ministers will or will not take. The Government has previously indicated that any Premises Standard will be compliant with the DDA.