

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
2-3 June 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Commercial Ready

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2008, Page E53)

QUESTION No. BI-90

Senator ABETZ—And I accept that and I am not critical that they did not know. I am sure this Judith McGarry acted with absolute integrity and without knowing that she was in fact misleading these people because, believe it or not, on 12 May, having been told their acceptance date and eligible project start was 12 May 2008, they celebrated only to be drowning their sorrows 24 hours later when they were told that the whole program had been axed. This is a shameful way to treat the innovation community in this country, especially when you made all those promises that you did before the election. But can I ask: how many other examples do we have of applicants spending money and being told that their application was progressing at a time when the department knew that the program was being axed?

Mr Peel—The figures that I have are that there were 71 applications being considered at the time.

Senator ABETZ—How many were communicated with about the progress of their application between 28 April and 13 May 2008?

Mr Peel—I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

46.