

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2009-10
01 June 2009

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: AISAP

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: BI-25

On what date were the Ministerial Guidelines for the AISAP program issued?

On what date was it decided to insert an “exceptional circumstances” clause into the funding criteria for the AISAP?

Was this exceptional circumstances criteria part of the initial Ministerial announcement of the AISAP?

Do “exceptional circumstances” grants under this program require matching funds from the company?

Is there a maximum percentage or amount of the AISAP set aside for “exceptional circumstances” grants? If so, what is it? If not, why not?

ANSWER

The Ministerial Guidelines for the AISAP program were published on the website of the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research on 18 December 2008.

The exceptional circumstances provisions were included in the Ministerial Guidelines for AISAP following industry consultations on the draft Guidelines. Those provisions have been part of the Ministerial Guidelines since they were published on 18 December 2008.

The initial Ministerial announcement of the AISAP was made by the Prime Minister in broad terms on 10 November 2008. The guidelines were then developed in consultation with industry.

Firms receiving grants under the program contribute to the overall cost of undertaking the project.

There is no fixed or maximum percentage of AISAP set aside for exceptional circumstances grants. The program is designed to be flexible in order to best meet its objectives.