

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio  
Budget Estimates Hearing 2010-11  
31 May 2010

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

**TOPIC:** Recovery of Overpayments.

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Eggleston.

**QUESTION No.:** BI-114

How many overpayments, on average, are raised by AusIndustry annually?

What percentage of these is pursued, and what percentage is written off and/or waived?

Is there a monetary figure up to and including which overpayments are waived?

**ANSWER**

Overpayments have been defined as:

- a) cases where AusIndustry has mistakenly paid companies more than they are entitled;
- b) where AusIndustry pays funding recipients in advance (eg. as per the grant agreement) and later determines for various reasons (eg. failure to meet project milestones etc) that the recipient is not entitled to full payment.

One hundred overpayments on average during the last two financial years, mostly from item (b). One hundred per cent of overpayments are pursued. Between 1 July 2008 and 31 May 2010, 0.5 per cent were written off as per FMA Regulation 44.

No.