

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Extent of collaboration between The Research Division and IP Australia

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: BI-143

Do Research Division and IP Australia collaborate on IP policy issues as they relate to work done in Australia? If so, what is the nature of these collaborations and what kind of work do they entail?

ANSWER:

The Research Division collaborates on an ongoing but irregular basis with IP Australia to discuss IP issues, particularly with regard to patents and the research commercialisation activities of Australian Universities and Cooperative Research Centres. IP Australia has also sought consultations with the Research Division on the findings of their study of the patenting activity of universities. Recent activities also include consultation on the development of the CRC Committee's submissions to discussions papers developed as part of the reform of Australia's IP system.

Additionally, the Department collaborates with IP Australia through the overlapping policy interests of the Innovation Division. The Innovation Division has input into the deliberations of the Advisory Council on Intellectual Property (ACIP) through the ex officio membership of its Division Head. The Innovation Division also has officer to officer dealings with IP Australia in the undertaking of its ordinary functions including IP Australia's research into university IP generation practices and an ACIP proposal to study the use of the intellectual property system by publicly funded research organisations and private sector organisations when considering or undertaking collaborations. Innovation Division and IP Australia also collaborate on providing policy advice on pharmaceuticals intellectual property issues.