

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Food Processing Industry Strategy Group

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Edwards

QUESTION No. BI -116

1. This Food Processing Industry Strategy Group was announced on 24 January 2011 and was meant to provide its industry report to the minister within 15 months of its first meeting. Has their report been presented to Minister yet?
2. If so, could we have it on notice?
3. If it hasn't been presented to the Minister yet, why not?
4. If the Minister has the report, when will it be released it?
5. What funding has been allocated to this group? Has it come from the \$478,000 allocated to the Food industry Policy?
6. What progress has been made by this group towards the strategy it was to produce?
7. What has the Minister's group produced?
8. The first meeting of this group took place on 14 February 2011 and a further five were planned for the following 18 months. How many have taken place thus far?

ANSWER

1. No.
2. Not applicable.
3. A number of studies were not completed in time to input into the report to meet the proposed timeframe.
4. See response to question 1.
5. Administered funding for the Strategy Group was \$478,000 for 2011-12.
6. The Strategy Group has made significant progress having commissioned four studies to provide content and context into a very complex sector, consisting of nearly 13,000 businesses across 238 Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC) subsectors and the draft report is nearing completion.
7. See response to question 6.
8. Six meetings have taken place.