

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: Dispute Resolution White Paper

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Ryan

QUESTION No.: BI-96

1. How much money and what departmental resources have been allocated in response to the Dispute Resolution white paper?
2. When was the decision made that the position of the Commissioner would be the department's response to the white paper and extensive consultation period?

ANSWER

1. The *Resolution of Small Business Disputes: Options Paper* (Options Paper) was not a formal 'white paper'. It was a paper developed in response to the former Small Business Minister's, Senator the Hon Nick Sherry, request to consult with stakeholders on options for resolving small business (business-to-business) disputes.

There was no specific budget allocated for a response to the Options Paper.

2. The Prime Minister announced the Australian Small Business Commissioner as the Government's response to the Options Paper on 14 March 2012.