

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2006-2007, 1 November 2006

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES  
**TOPIC:** AUSTRALIAN BUILDING CODES BOARD – DISABILITY ACCESS STANDARDS  
**REFERENCE:** WRITTEN QUESTION

**QUESTION No.SI-32**

**Senator Carr** asked:

What is the main reason for the delay in the government making a decision on a Premises Standard?

**ANSWER**

It is a matter for the Government to decide whether to formulate Premises Standards and the content of any Standards. The Standard-making process involves the balancing of diverse interests and extensive consultation.

In drafting the Premises Standards, the Government is attempting to clarify the right to access to premises for people with a disability without imposing prohibitive costs on industry. The proposed Premises Standards are technical in nature and attempt to provide certainty while also allowing flexibility.

The Government is currently considering the social and economic costs and benefits of the latest proposals.

**QUESTION No.SI-33**

**Senator Carr** asked:

Has any of the \$200,000 that has been set aside by the ABCB in its budget for the 2006-07 financial year as a contingency in relation to the Premises Standard been spent and, if so on what? If not, are there indications as to whether and on what it is likely to be spent?

**ANSWER**

Further expenditure on the Premises Standard during 2006-07 is subject to advice from Ministers. The amount is for either work to be undertaken on further development of proposed changes to the BCA if required, or on implementation of the proposed changes (including national awareness seminars) if Ministers support the Board's proposal.

**QUESTION No.SI-34**

**Senator Carr** asked:

What was the content of the human rights update paper in relation to development of the proposed Premises Standard which was noted by the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General in July 2006? Has the Standing Committee received any further updates and, if so, what was there content?

**ANSWER**

This is a matter for the Attorney-General.