

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

QUESTION No.SI-62

Senator Carr asked:

How does the work of the NMF differ to that being done by the Department for the Industry Statement?

ANSWER

Many of the ideas in the NMF document are consistent with the issues which have been identified from the Minister's consultations and the analysis undertaken by the Department.

The function of the two activities differs in that NMF is an invited forum of industry, industry organisations, state and territory nominees and officials and trade unions, bringing forward suggestions for all levels of government with respect to the manufacturing sector.

The Department's role in the Industry Statement is to provide advice to the Minister across all sectors for which he has responsibility.

QUESTION No.SI-63

Senator Carr asked:

What will be the relationship between the NMF document and the Industry Statement when the latter is completed?

ANSWER

There is no relationship between the two documents.

The NMF document is a series of proposals made by the Forum, generally for others to act on.

The Industry Statement will provide a policy framework and strategy for the next decade, together with whatever funding commitments the government deems appropriate.

QUESTION No.SI-64

Senator Carr asked:

It appears that the Commonwealth was the only stakeholder not part of the NMF. Why did the Commonwealth choose not to participate?

ANSWER

There are a wide variety of stakeholders in industry policy including firms both in the manufacturing sector and in other sectors of the economy.

The Minister chose to engage directly with a range of stakeholders including firms and industry associations. He also invited submissions from each state and territory, and from the NMF. The NMF represents only a component of those who needed to be consulted and could not have provided the broad perspective which is appropriate for the Minister to draw on in developing the Industry Statement.

The Minister is considering the NMF's proposals, along with all other received, as the Industry Statement develops.