

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2011-12
19 October 2011

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

TOPIC: NATIONAL REFERENCE GROUP

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-147

1. Has a group called the National Reference Group been established in relation to the new legislation? If so:
 - a. On what dates has this Group met?
 - b. On what dates have the minutes for each of those meetings been circulated to the attendees – and are you able to make those minutes available to us as well?
 - c. That group is presumably separate to the new advisory committee that was announced on 13 October 2011?
 - d. Why do both of these new groups include R&D tax consultants, given the Minister has previously described these people as “vested interests”, “well-organised” campaigners and “losers (who) scream like ... stuck pigs”?
2. Will any details be made available publicly under the new scheme about the payments that have been made to businesses and, if so, how?

ANSWER

1. Yes.
 - a. The R&D Tax National Reference Group (NRG) met on 12 August 2011.
 - b. Provisional minutes were circulated to members on 17 October 2011 with a view to formal acceptance at the next meeting.
 - c. Yes. The NRG is a separate body to the R&D Tax Incentive Advisory Committee.
 - d. R&D tax consultants are key stakeholders and their participation is an important component of the effective administration of the R&D Tax Incentive.
2. No.