

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012
19 October 2011

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

TOPIC: BUSINESS.GOV.AU

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 19 October 2011, page 65).

QUESTION No.: SI-36

Senator RYAN: On the business.gov.au website there is a link to a new organisation, the SME Association of Australia. On the website you say that a new peak body has been launched to support and equip small and medium-sized enterprises, SMEs, in Australia. Is that what you consider it to be, the new peak body?

Mr Schwager: I suspect it is one of them, a peak body.

Senator RYAN: I am not familiar with this association at all, I have not discussed anything with them. What criteria do you have for websites and links to go on the business.gov.au website? What criteria do you have for peak bodies? I am not going to use the word 'endorse' but I think by being on the business.gov.au website you would not just put anyone up there, you would have some criteria.

Mr Cicchini: Was it an endorsement as such or the fact that the minister—

Mr Schwager: I suspect that business.gov.au often has newsworthy items relating to small business as an information channel as opposed to a particular endorsement.

Senator RYAN: Sure. The only reason I ask is that obviously you have to select what goes up there and this is an area where, as you said in your earlier answer, it is a peak body. I gather from your answer that you are referring to the fact that there are more than one out there. What criteria do you have for deciding what goes up on this news channel or this particular feed, for lack of a better way of putting it? Was it just the fact that the minister spoke and launched it? That could be a legitimate answer.

Mr Schwager: I am not sure that there is a particular set of criteria rather than a judgment that this is particularly newsworthy to the target audience of business.gov.au, which tends to be the small business community.

Senator RYAN: Can you take on notice to get me all groups that you consider to be peak bodies for small business and groups that have been up on the business.gov.au or small business website as it used to be called. I am conscious that I am running out of time. Minister, there have been many statements from the government with respect to the impact of the carbon tax on small business. In your address to the 2011 National Small Business Summit you stated, 'The carbon price will not have any direct operational impact on small businesses.'

ANSWER

The non-government industry and business associations listed on the *Directory of Government and Business Associations* is available on the www.business.gov.au website.

Those industry or business associations which describe themselves as a “peak body” are:

Accommodation Getaways Victoria Inc
Aged and Community Services Australia (ACSA)
Australasian Energy Performance Contracting Association (AEPCA)
Australasian Federation of Family History Organisations
Australia Arab Chamber of Commerce and Industry Inc (AACCI)
Australia-India Business Council (AIBC)
Australian Amusement, Leisure and Recreation Association (AALARA)
Australian Beverages Council Ltd
Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI)
Australian Dairy Products Federation (ADPF)
Australian Direct Marketing Association (ADMA)
Australian Dried Fruits Association Inc.
Australian Food and Grocery Council (AFGC)
Australian Healthcare & Hospitals Association (AHHA)
Australian Industry Greenhouse Network (AIGN)
Australian Institute of Business Brokers (AIBB)
Australian Institute of Environmental Health (AIEH)
Australian Landcare Council
Australian Livestock and Property Agents Association Ltd (ALPA)
Australian Meat Industry Council (AMIC)
Australian Organisation for Quality Inc
Australian Petroleum Production & Exploration Association
Australian Plantation Products and Paper Industry Council
Australian Retailers Association
Australian Self-medication Industry Inc
Australian Seniors Computer Clubs Association (ASCCA)
Australian Sonographers Association (ASA)
Australian Steel Institute
Australian Trucking Association Ltd (ATA)
Burnett Inland Economic Development Organisation (BIEDO)
Business Educators Australasia Inc
Caravan and Camping Industry Association NSW (CCIA NSW)
Career Development Association of Australia Inc (CDAA)
Chartered Secretaries Australia (CSA)
Citrus Australia
Complementary Healthcare Council of Australia (CHC)
Council of Small Business Organisations of Australia (COSBOA)
Council of Textile and Fashion Industries of Australia Ltd (TFIA)
Design Institute of Australia
Ecotourism Association of Australia (EAA)
Energy Networks Association
Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA)
Financial Planning Association of Australia Ltd
Flour Millers Council of Australia (FMCA)
Franchise Council of Australia (FCA)
Fruit Growers Victoria Ltd
Grains Council of Australia (GCA)
Housing Industry Association Ltd

Institution of Surveyors Australia
Motor Trades Association of Australia (MTAA)
Municipal Association of Victoria
National Association for the Visual Arts
National Association of Forest Industries Ltd (NAFI)
National Employment Services Association (NESA)
National Farmers' Federation (NFF)
National Financial Services Federation
Occupational Therapy Australia (OT AUSTRALIA)
Outdoor Media Association (OMA)
Ports Australia
Professional Hairdressers Association (PHA)
Queensland Writers Association (QWC)
Renewable Energy Generators of Australia (REGA)
Risk Management Institution of Australasia (RMIA)
SME Association of Australia
South Australian Recreational Fishing Advisory Council Inc (SARFAC)
Spatial Industries Business Association
Sports Medicine Australia (SMA)
Timber Queensland (TQL)
Wool Council of Australia (WCA)