

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
17 October 2012

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

TOPIC: Commissioned Reports

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: SI- 159

How many Reports were commissioned by the Government in your department/agency in 2011-12? Please provide details of each report including date commissioned, date report handed to Government, date of public release, Terms of Reference and Committee members.

- How much did each report cost/or is estimated to cost? How many departmental staff were involved in each report and at what level?
- What is the current status of each report? Did the Government report within the required timeframe? If not, when is the Government intending to respond to these reports?

ANSWER

Please refer to AI-237 and BI-191 for details on commissioned reports for the period 1 July 2011 to 31 May 2012. Details on additional commissioned reports for 2011-12 are provided in the following table.

Title	Date commissioned	Date reported to government	Date of public release	Terms of reference	Committee members	Cost (GST inclusive)	Number of departmental staff involved	Current status	When is government intending to respond
The economic, social and environmental impacts of the Cooperative Research Centres Program	15 November 2011	1 August 2012	15 August 2012	An assessment of the delivered economic impact, both monetary and non-monetary, of the CRC program. The study needs to address the economic, environmental and social benefits of the CRC program to Australia. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a benefit needs to be attributable to the CRC program, i.e. the benefit is unlikely to have occurred in the timeframe under consideration in the absence of the program; the benefit must have already been delivered (or be commenced and ongoing); and the benefit must have been quantified and verified by the end users or beneficiaries of the research. 	A committee was not appointed for the impact study however the study received input from an advisory group comprising representatives from government central agencies, universities and the R&D community	\$165,000	1 x EL1	Report has been finalised and publicly released. The report is available from the CRC program website at: www.crc.gov.au	NA
Higher Education Learning and Teaching Review	25 July 2011	24 October 2011	16 November 2011	To listen to higher education sector perspectives on current teaching and learning grant and award programs and provide advice to Government on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the value and effectiveness of current grant and award programs; the sector's role in providing advice when grant and award programs transfer from the ALTC to the Department, including peer review arrangements and advisory structures; the relative funding of program elements from 2012 onwards; opportunities for innovation and program design improvements; and any other matters of interest raised in consultations. 	A committee was not appointed for this review	\$72,000	1 x SES 1 x EL2 1 x EL1	The Higher Education Learning and Teaching Review Report was finalised and published on the Office of Learning and Teaching website	NA
Econometric Analysis of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program	12 December 2011	5 March 2012	5 November 2012	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An examination of the effectiveness and efficiency of the Australian Apprenticeships Incentives Program. The development of tools to prioritise investment and effectively target incentives. The provision of options for alternative frameworks for the program. 	A committee was not appointed for this study	\$127,500	1 x EL1 1 x APS6	Report finalised and published on the Australian Apprenticeships website	NA
Resources Sector Skill Needs	The National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce in its report to Government in	2 August 2012	TBA	The terms of reference for the Resources Sector Skill Needs Research Steering Committee were: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> to provide guidance on the scope and research methodology to be used to identify skills shortages both for the 	Mr Philip Bullock, Chair, Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency; Mr Keith Spence, Board member AWPA; Dr Michael Keating, Board member, AWPA;	\$14,527	0.5 x EL2 2.5 x EL1 1 x APS 6 0.5 x APS 5	To be considered at next meeting of SCOTESE (16 November)	NA

	<p>July 2010 made 31 recommendations in seven key areas which were adopted by the Australian Government. Recommendation 1.3 was that AWPA prepare annual reports on the status of skills shortages in the resources sector. Skills Australia produced an interim report in May 2011. The 2012 Resources Sector Skill Needs Report is the first annual report since May 2011.</p>			<p>initial report and follow up reports;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • agree to the objectives and structure of commissioned research; • provide input and guidance on appropriate engagement of stakeholders; and • ensure that this commissioned research can be delivered, within budget and project timelines. 	<p>Prof Gerald Burke, Board member, AWPA; Mr Chris Fraser, Director of Education & Training, Minerals Council of Australia; Mr Ray Barker, Chair, SkillsDMC; Ms Miranda Taylor, Director of Safety, Environment and Productivity, Australian Petroleum Production and Exploration Association ; Mr Jim Barrett, Executive Director, Australian Constructors Association; Mr Tim Shipstone, Industrial Officer, ACTU and Mr Paul Davies, National Director Planning and Development, Australian National Engineering Taskforce.</p>				
<p>Annual Report on Social Equity in VET 2011 (formerly Disadvantage Learners in VET Report)</p>	<p>15 June 2012</p>	<p>6 September 2012</p>	<p>TBA</p>	<p>The purpose of this Annual Report is to provide baseline data necessary for monitoring the performance of the national VET system in achieving improved participation and outcomes for disadvantaged learners in VET as measured against the VET Equity Outcomes Framework.</p>	<p>A committee was not appointed for the research however the research received input from National VET Equity Advisory Council and project reference group comprising of representatives from all jurisdictions, NCVET and departmental representatives was established by SCOTese Access and Participation Principal Committee</p>	<p>\$249,910</p>	<p>0.5 x EL 1 0.25 x EL 2</p>	<p>To be considered at next meeting of SCOTese (June 2013)</p>	<p>N/A</p>