

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: Staff Assessing Applications and Processing Grants

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 17 October 2012, pages 45-46)

QUESTION No.: SI-195

Senator COLBECK: Firstly, can I get the number of staff currently employed in AusIndustry?

Ms Butler: The staff number in AusIndustry as at 31 August 2012 was 478.

Senator COLBECK: Roughly how many of them would be involved in or spend most of their time processing or assessing applications for grants?

Ms Butler: The majority.

Senator COLBECK: Can you give me some idea of what percentage that might be—are we talking 50, 60, 70 or 80 per cent?

Ms Butler: As you know, we have a variety of programs. Some of them are competitive granting programs and some of them are entitlement programs. I would say around 80 per cent of our staff would be involved in the administration of the programs within AusIndustry.

Senator COLBECK: What about staff who spend most of their time processing or assessing applications for grants specifically—all of that 80 per cent?

Ms Butler: It would not be all of that 80 per cent. We have a significant number of staff working on the R&D tax incentive. Between 60 and 80 staff are working on that. I could take this on notice for you and give you the breakdown of staff working on the various programs.

Senator COLBECK: I do not want to spend too much time on it but I am trying to get a sense of what percentage of the staff would be working on assessing and processing applications for grants. You cannot give me any?

Mr Sexton: It is difficult to break up the various activities that people in AusIndustry would do. We deliver programs from go to whoa. There is the education role that our staff undertake to assist companies and businesses—

Senator COLBECK: I know but I am asking something quite specific about processing and/or assessing applications for grants.

Ms Butler: I would need to make a bit of an estimate around that but, in terms of processing and assessing grants, of the 478, I would say possibly half of those would be involved in that. I would have to try and confirm that on notice.

ANSWER

As at 31 October 2012, approximately 52 per cent of staff administer competitive grant programs.