

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: PM's Manufacturing Taskforce

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No: SI-98

1. What is the Department's definition of a small business, in terms of employee numbers? And what is therefore the Department's calculation of what percentage of manufacturing businesses in Australia are therefore small businesses?
2. How many businesses did the Taskforce directly visit as part of its deliberations? And, of these, how many had (a) 31-50 employees and (b) 30 employees or less? In which cities and/or towns did the Taskforce directly visit businesses?

ANSWER

1. The Department uses the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) definition which defines a small business as an actively trading business with 0-19 employees.

The percentage of manufacturing businesses in Australia that were small businesses was 88.3 per cent in June 2009.

2. The Taskforce did not directly visit any businesses.

The Taskforce Secretariat conducted wide-ranging consultation with a 63 stakeholder groups including groups representing small businesses in the manufacturing sector.

Consultations occurred at the department's offices in Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide, Brisbane, Perth, Newcastle and Canberra. Because of their availability, some business representatives were interviewed by telephone.