

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
21 November 2013

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Discretionary grants

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-58

In relation to discretionary grants:

1. How many discretionary grants programs are managed by this Department?
2. Can you provide us with a list of those programs? In each case how are they administered?
3. In relation to each of these programs is there an industry advisory body – or some other form of advisory body – that is involved in the assessment process for grant applications?
4. Please provide details of the membership of any advisory bodies.
5. Were these bodies in place before the election – have there been any changes since the election?
6. Has there been a pause, or freeze or suspension, in the release of funding for grants under these programs – if so, what are the details?
7. What advice has been provided to stakeholders about the nature and purpose of the pause?
8. If there has been a pause, did this pause include grants that had been advertised but not yet finalised?
9. Did this pause include grants where decisions had been finalised but recipients had not yet been notified?
10. If so, is there an indicative timeline as to when successful recipients of grants can expect to hear from the Government?
11. Since the election has there been any change to these assessment processes and decision making arrangements?

ANSWER

1. The Department manages 55 discretionary grants programs.
- 2 to 5. Please refer to the table at **Attachment A**.
6. Programs continue as normal in developing policy and progressing grant programs. There is a requirement for additional approval by the Minister for Finance to assess that grants spending is consistent with the Government's priorities and commitments, before any relevant grant spending can proceed.
- 7 to 11. Not applicable.
11. No.

Grant Programme	2) How is programme administered	3) Name of Advisory Body if applicable	4) Membership details	5) Was body in place before election and have there been any changes since 7 September 2013
Acacia Park Industrial Estate Armidale contribution towards enhanced communications capacity	One-off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Bindaree Beef - assistance	One-off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Clean Business Australia - Green Building Fund	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Clean Technology Innovation Program	Competitive grants	Program closed to new applications on 22 October 2013		
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Commercialisation Australia	Competitive grants	Innovation Australia - Commercialisation Australia Board	For membership details refer to www.ausgovboards.gov.au	Yes No Change
Cooperative Research Centres Program	Competitive grants	Cooperative Research Centres Committee	For membership details refer to www.ausgovboards.gov.au	Yes One position became vacant
Energy Brix Australia Corporation	One-off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Enterprise Solutions Program - establishment	Competitive grants	Program not yet launched		
Green Car Innovation Fund	Competitive grants	Program closed to new applications on 27 January 2011		
Illawarra and Region Innovation and Investment Fund	Competitive grants	Program closed to new applications on 25 May 2012		
Innovation Investment Fund	Competitive grants (capital funding)	Innovation Australia - Venture Capital Committee	For membership details refer to www.ausgovboards.gov.au	Yes No Change
Small Business Advisory Services	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Tasmanian Economic Diversification Projects	One-off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Tasmanian Forest Agreement - implementation package	Competitive grants	Plantation Manufacturing Innovation and Investment Fund Assessment Panel	Not applicable	No No change
Tasmanian Innovation and Investment Fund	Competitive grants	Tasmanian Innovation and Investment Fund Assessment Panel	Not applicable	No No change
Textile Clothing and Footwear - Strategic Capability Program	Competitive grants	Textile, Clothing and Footwear Strategic Capability Program Assessment Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent member (1) • Departmental ex-officio members (2) 	Yes No Change
Victorian Innovation Investment Fund - Ford Assistance	Competitive grants	Melbourne North Innovation and Investment Fund Assessment Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent members (2) • Departmental ex-officio member (1) • Victorian Government ex-officio member (1) 	Yes No Change
		Geelong Region Innovation and Investment Fund Assessment Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent members (2) • Departmental ex-officio member (1) • Victorian Government ex-officio member (1) 	No Appointments made
Industry Innovation Precincts Programme	Competitive grants	National Precincts Board	For membership details refer to www.ausgovboards.gov.au	Yes No Change
Leveraging Australia's Global Expat Platform – Advance	One-off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Energy Efficiency Information Grants	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Low Carbon Communities	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Enterprise Connect	The Enterprise Connect program includes three grant elements: the Tailored Advisory Service (TAS), non-competitive grants; Researchers in Business (RiB), non-competitive grants; and grants to Partner Organisations, competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Clean Sustainable Skills Package - Green Skills Agreement	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Incentives for Higher Technical Skills (non-Australian Apprenticeship component)	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Industry Training Strategies (Education & Training Advisers and Integrated Information Services)	Non-competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Industry Workforce Training	Non-competitive grants	No applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Investing in Experience (Skills, Recognition & Training)	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
National Foundation Skills Strategy - Structural Training System Initiatives	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
National Workforce Development Fund (includes Critical Skills Investment Fund)	Competitive grants	National Workforce Development Fund: The Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency (AWPA). Critical Skills Investment Fund: Critical Skills Investment Fund Advisory Board	Not applicable	Yes The Critical Skills Investment Fund: Advisory body ceased in 2011-12
Productive Ageing Through Community Education	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Skills Connect Fund	Competitive grants	The Australian Workforce and Productivity Agency provides on-going priority advice based on future skills needs forecasts to inform priorities for skills funding	Not applicable	Yes
Step into Skills Program	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Workforce Innovation (formerly Strategic Intervention including National Skills Shortages Strategy)	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable

Workplace English Language and Literacy	Competitive grants	WELL Training: the Program does not have an advisory Board. It does however have one advisory committee for each state and territory ('State Advisory Committees') and one advisory committee for national office ('National Advisory Committee'). WELL Strategic and Resources: Not applicable	WELL Training: Each committee consists of at least three members with one being a Language, Literacy and Numeracy (LLN) specialist	WELL Training: Advisory Committees - Yes WELL Strategic and Resources: Not applicable
Australian Paper's Maryvale Pulp and Paper Mill - assistance	One Off Grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Diamond Energy Assistance	One Off Grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
General Motors Holden - next generation vehicles - contribution	One Off Grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Textile Clothing and Footwear - Structural Adjustment Program	Ad-Hoc	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Toyota Major Mid-Cycle Overhaul of the Camry	One Off Grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Automotive New Markets Initiative	Competitive grants	Automotive New Markets Program Assessment Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Independent member (1) • Departmental officer (1) • State Department Representatives (2) 	Yes. No Changes
Opening up opportunities through Australian Industry Participation	Ad-Hoc	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Science for Australia's Future - Inspiring Australia	Competitive and one-off grants	<p>National Science Week: (annual) As specified by the Grants Guidelines, <i>National Science Week</i> grants are assessed by an external independent committee</p> <p>Prime Minister's Prizes for Science (annual): Science Prizes Committee and the Science Teaching Prizes Committee</p> <p>Unlocking Australia's Potential (2012): As specified by the Grants Guidelines, <i>Unlocking Australia's Potential</i> grants were assessed by an external independent committee. There were three Committees: for the small, medium and large grant categories</p>	<p>National Science Week: 5 to 6 people, representing education, museum, research, media and government sectors.</p> <p><u>Science Prizes Committee:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Representatives from Academy of Science (5); • Representatives from Academy of Technological Sciences and Engineering (5); • Chief Scientist of Australia; • Departmental officer (1). <p><u>Science Teaching Prizes Committee;</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • two representatives from the Australia Science Teachers Association (2); 	<p>Yes</p> <p>National Science Week: Membership of the committee is kept confidential and is changed every year.</p> <p>Membership of both Committees for Prime Minister's Prizes for Science is changed every year.</p> <p>Unlocking Australia's Potential: Membership of the committee is kept confidential.</p>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> representative from Australian Primary Principals Association (1); representative from Australian Secondary Principals Association (1); representative from CSIRO Education (1); representative from Australian Academy of Science (1); Member of the science education community (1); Departmental officer (1). <p>Unlocking Australia's Potential: 4 to 8 people, representing education, museum, research, media and government sectors.</p>	
Coal Sector Technology Abatement Package	Competitive/merit based program grants.	A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) was established to provide advice on the implementation of the program and on the selection of the projects to be supported.	The Committee includes technical experts from CSIRO, state government departments and mine safety regulators, ACALET and some individual coal mining companies (Glencore, BHP Billiton and Anglo American).	Yes No change
Carbon Capture and Storage Flagships	Competitive/merit based program grants	National Carbon Capture and Storage Council	<p>The NCCS Council membership included representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Chair coal industry (3) oil and gas sectors (2) coal and gas-fired power generators (3) research community (2) state governments (4) Australian Government (1). 	Yes Council ceased 1 February 2014
Low Technology Demonstration Fund	Competitive/merit based program grants.	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
National Low Emissions Coal Initiative (NLECI)	Ad-hoc	National Carbon Capture and Storage Council	<p>The NCCS Council membership included representatives from:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent Chair coal industry (3) oil and gas sectors (2) coal and gas-fired power generators (3) research community (2) state governments (4) Australian Government (1). 	Yes Council ceased 1 February 2014

Australian Centre for Asia Capability Asialink Business (previously referred to as the Australian Centre for Asia Capability)	One-off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
International Education and Training (Australia-India Strategic Research Fund element only)	Competitive grants	Australia-India Strategic Research Fund Advisory Panel	For membership details refer to www.ausgovboards.gov.au	Yes No Change
Square Kilometre Array Radio Telescope Project	One off grant	Expert Advisory Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Representatives of the Australian research community (3); Departmental officer (1) Assessment convenor (1) 	No No change
Australia-China Science and Research Fund	Competitive grants	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
National Centre for Vocational Education Research	Separate contracts for the provision of statistical and research services (procurement, not grant programme); plus a Commonwealth membership contribution.	National Skills Standards Council	For membership details refer to www.ausgovboards.gov.au	Yes No Change
National Training System COPE - Foundation Skills	One off grant	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable
Accelerated Australian Apprenticeships	Competitive grant	Not applicable	Not application	Not applicable
Alternative Pathways Program for Skills Training	Ad hoc	No Board, but an Industry Reference Group provides advice to the Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Council of Australia Australian Industry Group TAFE Directors Australia Australian Council of Trade Unions 	Yes No Change

			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry• Australian Council for Private Education and Training• Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (VIC)• Department of Education and Training (QLD)• Council of Small Business of Australia• Group Training Australia• Construction and Property Services Industry Skills Council• Energy Skills Australia Industry Skills Council	
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