

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

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

**TOPIC:** Australian Jobs Act 2013

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** SI-117

1. Provide a list of measures associated with the *Australian Jobs Act 2013*, the associated funding over the forward estimates, and an update on the status of these measures.
2. Provide a list of measures associated with Plan for Australian Jobs, the associated funding over the forward estimates, and an update on the status of these measures.
3. Which Department(s) have responsibility for the different measures in the *Australian Jobs Act* and Plan for Australian Jobs and has there been any change in responsibility under the new Government?
4. Has the Department been directed to pause or discontinue any measures related to the *Australian Jobs Act* or Plan for Australian Jobs? If so, which ones?

**ANSWER**

1. The *Australian Jobs Act 2013* was a component of the measure A Plan for Australian Jobs – Opening up opportunities through Australian Industry Participation. This measure includes:
  - Australian Industry Participation Authority (establishment);
  - Buy Australian at Home and Abroad; and
  - Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chains programme.

For the budget associated with this programme please refer to the programme expense tables on page 37 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14.

*Update on the status of measures:*

- Implementation of functional arrangements in preparation for the *Australian Jobs Act 2013* commencement on 28 December 2013.
  - Buy Australian at Home and Abroad - Business as usual.
  - Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chains programme – The Government announced the discontinuation of the Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chain programme.
2. Measures associated with A Plan for Australian Jobs:

**a) Opening up opportunities through Australian Industry Participation**

Please refer to Part 1.

## **b) Strengthening Australia's Anti-Dumping and Countervailing System Reforms**

The measure included the following elements:

- i. establishing a new Anti-Dumping Commission (Commission) to investigate dumping complaints;
- ii. increasing resources for Customs to deal with cases speedily and fairly;
- iii. making the anti-dumping system easier for SMEs to access and use; and
- iv. strengthening remedies against overseas producers who deliberately circumvent Australia's anti-dumping rules.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

Element i was completed on 1 July 2013, with the establishment of the Commission. Funding for elements ii and iii commenced on 1 July 2013. Element iv commences on 1 January 2014, except for one aspect relating to changes to import declarations, which is expected to commence in the first half of 2014.

## **c) Industry Innovation Precincts**

For the budget associated with this programme please refer to the programme expense tables on page 37 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The Government is currently considering options to progress the Industry Innovation Precinct Programme.

## **d) Expediting Clinical Trials Reform in Australia**

For the budget associated with this programme as they relate to this portfolio, please refer to the programme expense tables on page 46 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

Work on this initiative is underway.

## **e) Venture Australia**

For the budget associated with this programme please refer to the budget measures table on page 26 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The Australian Government is currently assessing all discretionary grant programmes for consistency with Government priorities and commitments. This includes Round 4 of the Innovation Investment Fund programme, announced as part of the Venture Australia initiative. On 14 December 2013, the Government announced it would not proceed with the changes to the tax-based venture capital programmes, which were part of the Venture Australia initiative. Work on the initiative promoting innovation success stories is underway.

#### **f) Enterprise Solutions Programme**

For the budget associated with this programme please refer to the budget measures table on page 26 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The Enterprise Solutions Programme has not commenced yet.

#### **g) Manufacturing Leaders Group**

For the budget associated with this measure please refer to the agency measures table on page 18 of the Portfolio Additional Estimates Statements 2012-13.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The Minister is considering the future of industry consultation mechanisms such as the Manufacturing Leaders Group in the context of the government's election commitments around industry engagement.

#### **h) Services Leaders Group**

For the budget associated with this measure please refer to the budget measures table on page 26 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2013-14.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The Minister is considering the future of industry consultation mechanisms such as the Services Leaders Group in the context of the government's election commitments around industry engagement.

#### **i) Enhancing Enterprise Connect**

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The Australian Jobs Plan extended the provision of core Enterprise Connect business support services to three additional industry sectors – Transport (freight) & Logistics, Information and Communication Technologies and Professional Services. This measure was implemented on 17 February 2013 and is ongoing.

#### **j) R&D Tax Incentive – better targeting**

For the revenue measure please refer to budget measures Budget Paper No. 2 2013-14.

*Update on the status of the measure:*

The *Tax Laws Amendment (Research and Development) Bill 2013*, which gives effect to the R&D Tax Incentive better targeting measure, was introduced into the House of Representatives on 14 November 2013. The Bill is yet to be debated as of 9 December 2013.

3. The Department of Industry continues to have responsibility of all measures with the exception of:
- Expediting Clinical Trial Reform in Australia – The Department of Industry and the Department of Health have joint responsibility of this measure.
  - Anti-Dumping and Countervailing System Reforms - The Anti-Dumping Commission has responsibility for implementing the measure to strengthen Australia's anti-dumping and

countervailing system. Under Machinery of Government changes, the Commission will be transferred from the Australian Customs and Border Protection Service to the Department of Industry. The *Customs Amendment (Anti-Dumping Commission Transfer) Bill 2013*, which will allow for this transfer to occur, was introduced into Parliament on 14 November 2013.

- R&D Tax Incentive – The Department of Industry and the Department of Treasury have joint responsibility of this measure.

4. The Government announced the discontinuation of the Clean Technology Focus for Supply Chain programme.