

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: Australia's Innovation System

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-122

1. How does the Department define Australia's innovation system and what are the key elements in that system?
2. Is the Department still measuring the performance of Australia's innovation system against 10-year innovation priorities? If so, what are the targets used to measure progress? If not, how is the Department measuring performance and what are the goals/objectives?
3. Is it the Department's view that increasing collaboration between Australian businesses, universities and publicly-funded research agencies is vital to improving Australia's innovation system? If so, how will the Department ensure this collaboration is improved and maintained given that policy responsibility for tertiary education and research sits with the Department of Education?
4. Do the Departments of Industry and Education have a set of shared targets and key performance indicators to measure the performance of Australia's innovation system and identify areas for improvement? If not, why not? If so, what are the targets and KPIs?
5. Does the Department intend to continue compiling Annual Australian Innovation System reports? If not, why not and at whose direction?

ANSWER

1. The definition can be found on page 14 of the Australian Innovation System Report 2013.
2. The Department measures performance through both the annual Australian Innovation System Report, and the Australian Bureau of Statistics data surveys.
3. Yes. The Departments of Industry and Education hold regular meetings, which will act as the coordination point for ensuring this collaboration is improved and maintained.
4. No. The Departments of Industry and Education haven't had shared targets and key performance indicators in the past but setting such targets and indicators is under consideration.
5. Yes.