

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: Manufacturing transition grant programme

REFERENCE: Question on Notice, written Thursday 28 November 2013

QUESTION No.: SI-68

Referring to the Government's election commitment to introduce a \$50 million manufacturing transition grant program over two years:

1. What progress has been made to implement this commitment?
2. What division is responsible for implementing this commitment?
3. How many FTE staff are responsible for implementing this commitment?
4. Has the Department commenced work drafting program guidelines for this fund?
5. Will the Department put the draft program guidelines out for public consultation?
6. When does the Department expect the program to open for applications?
7. How will applications be assessed and by whom?
8. What will be the maximum grant amounts?
9. Has the Department done any modelling to assess whether this amount of funding is sufficient to achieve the program's stated objectives?
10. If so, is the \$50 million sufficient to achieve the program's stated objectives?
11. I note that Government has promised that "local communities will be given a say in how any grant received is spent." Does the department envisage any practical difficulties in implementing this commitment as part of any potential funding agreement?

ANSWER

1. Work has commenced on developing the design of the programme.
2. AusIndustry, the programme delivery arm of the Department, will implement the programme.
3. The number of fulltime equivalent staff responsible for implementing the programme is yet to be determined as programme development is not complete.
4. The Department has commenced initial work on drafting the programme guidelines.
5. This is yet to be determined.
6. The programme is due to commence on 1 July 2014.
7. This is yet to be finalised.
8. The maximum grant amount is \$10 million as stated in the policy commitment.
9. No; the Department has not undertaken any modelling.
10. The Government announced the programme during the election and a process will be put in place to meet the programme objectives.
11. The Department is currently considering how community participation may be effectively achieved.