

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2003-2004, 5 November 2003

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: PRINTING INDUSTRY COMPETITIVENESS SCHEME
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION DEST no: E686_04

Senator Stott Despoja asked:

The Printing Industry Competitiveness Scheme (PICS) was linked to the BIAP although it was introduced for different reasons. The rationale for the scheme still exists (i.e. the industry still has to pay tariffs on imported papers used in book production) but the scheme was terminated on 30 June this year. How does the Government plan to ensure there is no disadvantage to local printers now the scheme has finished?

ANSWER

PICS was introduced to operate over four years to ease the industry's transition to self-reliance following the replacement of the book bounty. While PICS has finished, the industry has been well supported through the BIAP including EPICS, and the PRINT21 Action Agenda, to which the Government has made a substantial contribution.