

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates 2013-14
27 February 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Clinical Trial Action Group

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Kim Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-125

What progress has been made implementing the recommendations of the Clinical Trial Action Group and what is the status of the Expediting Clinical Trial Reform in Australia initiative?

ANSWER

Many of the recommendations of the Clinical Trials Action Group (CTAG) have been addressed or have made significant progress. The Department of Industry and the Department of Health continue to work together to address the CTAG recommendations and build on previous work. Progress on the elements that are the responsibility of the Department of Industry is as follows:

- The Department of Industry is currently working with the NHMRC to build on the australianclinicaltrials.gov.au website to develop a national interactive clinical trials web portal to enable greater participation and engagement in clinical trials.
- The Department of Industry is currently working with the NHMRC to develop education and training material or courses to improve clinical trials conduct and timeliness.
- To inform this work, the Department of Industry engaged ARCS Australia to provide a report *Needs Analysis for Education and Training of Personnel involved in Clinical Trials in Australia* which will provide the basis for future education/training activities. This report was provided to the department in 2013. The department is developing the next stage of this element, based on the needs analysis.
- A new committee, the Clinical Trials Advisory Committee (CTAC) is being established to oversee the Australian Government activities under the clinical trials reform initiative. Membership of the CTAC will include representatives from peak health and industry associations, state and Australian Government agencies, consumers and academic clinical trials networks. The CTAC will be co-Chaired by senior representatives from the Department of Health and Department of Industry.