

### **Inquiry into access to Australian Parliament House by lobbyists**

Senator David Pocock, in his role as a participating member of the Senate Finance and Public Administration References Committee, has asked that the following written questions on notice be put to Ms Kate Griffiths for response:

1. Your submission builds on a previous report titled *Who's in the Room*. I found the data in that report really interesting.

Figure 1.2 on page 3 of your submission breaks down lobbying, donations and access by industry in Queensland.

One thing it shows is that the mining and energy industry has by far the largest number of commercial lobbying contracts of any industry. Why is that?

#### **ANSWER**

Grattan Institute's 2018 report, *Who's in the room?*, showed that businesses that operate in industries heavily affected by government decisions (high regulation businesses) are much more active in lobbying – and more successful in getting access to policymakers – than other groups.

Mining and Energy is a very highly regulated industry, so the incentive to lobby is high. The data suggests that businesses in the Mining and Energy industry particularly prioritise lobbying via commercial lobbying firms. Businesses in this industry may be better resourced to afford commercial lobbying and may see this approach as being more influential.

It is no surprise that highly regulated businesses are knocking on politicians' doors. But those who come knocking are not representative, so politicians should be seeking out a wide range of views to be able to adjudicate the public interest.