

**Senate Standing Committee on Environment and Communications**  
**Answers to Senate Estimates Questions on Notice**  
**Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearings October 2016**  
**Communications Portfolio**  
**Department of Communications and the Arts**

**Question No: 53**

**Program 2.1**

**Hansard Ref: Written, 01/11/2016**

**Topic: Report - Game On: more than playing around. The future of Australia's video game development industry**

**Senator Bilyk, Catryna asked:**

REPORT OF THE SENATE ENVIRONMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS REFERENCES COMMITTEE – “Game On: more than playing around. The future of Australia’s video game development industry” – presented on 29 April 2016

1. When will the Government provide a response to the report?
2. What advice, preliminary or otherwise, has been provided by the Department to the Minister on the report?
3. Has the report been taken into account in the management of the Catalyst program or the decisions on funding to Screen Australia for this vital work?
4. In its response to Recommendation 13 of the Senate Legal and Constitutional References Committee report – Impact of the 2014 and 2015 Commonwealth Budget decisions on the Arts – [Recommendation 13 – The committee recommends that the Commonwealth government restore a program for funding innovation and development in interactive gaming, whether through reinstating the Australian Interactive Games Fund previously managed by Screen Australia, or through another appropriate government entity.] the Government undertook to consider that recommendation after the “Game on” report was tabled. Is this still the case and what is being done to address the damage being done to Australia’s video game development industry by delays in addressing this issue?

**Answer:**

1-3. A whole-of-Government response is being developed by the Department in consultation with relevant portfolios including Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, Austrade and Treasury for consideration by Government in due course.

4. All of the recommendations of the Senate Inquiry report will be considered and responded to by Government in due course. The games industry can continue to access the support mechanisms available to it through federal and state government programs.