

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Industry and Science Portfolio  
Additional Estimates 2014-15  
26 February 2015

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**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** R&D Tax Assessment

**REFERENCE:** Question on Notice (Hansard, 26 February 2015, page 113)

**QUESTION No.:** AI-17

**Senator KIM CARR:** I am because we have been in this game for a long time and we know that we cannot rely on Treasury estimates or projections in this area, whereas I do have some confidence that your work dealing directly with companies is likely to produce more reliable statistics. What is your estimate of the number of companies that are affected?

**Ms Beauchamp:** That is really hypothetical, given that the Treasurer and the Minister for Finance have already indicated that it is fewer than 25 corporate companies and I think the Treasury would have access to the proper data to make that assessment through the tax office.

**Senator KIM CARR:** And the tax accountants wouldn't? Because they are the ones who have made the claim that the figures that the Treasury have issued are wrong.

**Mr Lewis:** AusIndustry's figures are that there are 24 groups of companies that were registered in 2012-13 that had registered an amount over \$100 million.

**Senator KIM CARR:** So there are 24 groups of companies. How many companies does that involve? You said they are groups of companies. How many individual companies are there?

**Mr Lewis:** I am not certain how many individual companies—

**Senator KIM CARR:** How many companies are there in the Wesfarmers group, as an example?

**Mr Lewis:** We would have to take that on notice. But certainly under the R&D tax incentive corporate groups register for the incentive in the same way that corporate groups deal with the tax system....

**ANSWER**

As at 31 December 2014, for income year 2012-13, the 24 groups of companies registering more than \$100 million of R&D expenditure included a total of 127 R&D-performing entities.

Under the confidentiality provisions of the legislation we cannot provide information about any specific taxpayer.