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Dr Kathleen Dermody  
Secretary  
Senate Economics Legislation Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Dr Dermody

**Amendments to Questions on Notice**

Please find attached our updated response to a Question on Notice (QoN) which supercedes the response the Department previously provided for tabling. The details are as follows:

- QoN AI-73 – re the Clothing and Household Textile (Building Innovative Capability) Scheme:  
The Department's initial response to this question was incomplete. Immediately upon realisation of this, the Department updated the response accordingly.

It would be most appreciated if you could provide the updated response to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

David Lawrence  
A/g General Manager  
Food, Chemicals and Fibres Branch  
Sectoral Growth Policy Division

DATE 24/4/2015

**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:** TCF Industry

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** AI-73

Why is the Department advising clothing manufacturers that the Clothing and Household Textile (Building Innovative Capability) scheme is closed to applicants for 2014-15 innovation grants when it remains a legislated entitlement?

**ANSWER**

Since its launch on 1 July 2014 the department's *business.gov.au* website displayed the following information regarding the Clothing and Household Textile (Building Innovative Capability) scheme at <http://www.business.gov.au/grants-and-assistance/manufacturing/bic-scheme/Pages/default.aspx>

“Programme status: Open

Notice: As part of the 2014/15 Federal Budget the Government has announced its intention to close the Clothing and Household Textile Building Innovative Capability (BIC) Scheme one year earlier than previously scheduled. The related legislation was passed in the House of Representatives on 5 June 2014, however it has not yet been debated in the Senate. We will continue to provide updates on this matter.”

On 17 April 2015 the above content was replaced with the following words:

“Programme status: Open

Notice: As part of the 2014/15 Federal Budget the Government has announced its intention to close the Clothing and Household Textile Building Innovative Capability (BIC) scheme one year earlier than previously scheduled. The related legislation was passed in the House of Representatives on 5 June 2014, however it has not yet been debated in the Senate. In the event that the legislation is not amended and to not disadvantage potential applicants, AusIndustry will consider late applications for registration and renewals of registration for the BIC scheme for the 2014/15 program year up until COB 1 June 2015, due to exceptional circumstances. Please call 13 28 46 for details. Please note that if the amending legislation is passed before 1 July 2015, all registrations and renewals for the 2014/15 program year will lapse.”

In addition to updating the *business.gov.au* website as above, AusIndustry emailed BIC Scheme stakeholders on 17 April 2015 to inform them of this development.

Due to an administrative error, from late May 2014 until 23 April 2015 the Department's other website, *industry.gov.au*, incorrectly stated that the BIC Scheme was closed. This information was removed on 23 April 2015 and replaced with a hyperlink to the correct information, as above, on the *business.gov.au* website.