

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Growth Centres

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No. AI-78

1. What was the process for selecting Chairs and Independent Members of the Growth Centres Advisory Committee? Were the positions advertised?
2. In relation to the Growth Centres Advisory Committee:
 - a. Is there a Charter for the Committee or Terms of Reference?
 - b. What is the role of the Committee?
 - c. Are Chairs and committee members paid positions?
 - d. Is there a set term for Chairs and/or committee members?
3. What is the application process for firms wanting to form a Growth Centre? Is it a competitive process? If so, how are applications being assessed and when will firms be notified of the outcomes?
4. How many applications has the Department received to date for the Growth Centres initiative?
5. What is the primary purpose of the Growth Centres? Will the centres deliver projects and produce reports?

ANSWER

1. The Minister selected the Chairs for the Industry Growth Centre and the independent members of the Growth Centres Advisory Committee. Stakeholders were able to provide nominations to the Department for consideration. The positions were not advertised.
2.
 - a. Terms of Reference for the Growth Centres Advisory Committee is available at www.business.gov.au/growthcentres.
 - b. The role is outlined in the Terms of Reference.
 - c. As outlined in the Terms of Reference, members are not remunerated for meetings. However, the Minister has the discretion to remunerate members under the rates for 'Offices not specified in the Remuneration Tribunal Determination 2014/08: Remuneration and Allowances for Holders of Part-Time Office'.
 - d. As outlined in the Terms of Reference, appointments will not exceed three years. However, members can be re-appointed.
3. Each Industry Growth Centre Chair, in consultation with their sector, will lead the development of a Growth Centre proposal for the Minister's consideration. Each Chair will submit one Industry Growth Centre proposal for their sector. Each proposal will be assessed on merit using the criteria outlined in the *Industry Growth Centres Initiative Guidelines* available on www.business.gov.au/growthcentres. Industry Growth Centres are expected to be operational by the middle of the year.

4. No applications have been received as at 19 March 2015.
5. The objectives and outcomes of the Industry Growth Centres are detailed in in the *Industry Growth Centres Initiative Guidelines* available on www.business.gov.au/growthcentres.

The activities and priorities of the Industry Growth Centres will be determined by the Chairs under four key themes: identifying opportunities to reduce regulatory burden; increasing collaboration and commercialisation; improving capabilities to engage with international markets and global supply chains; and enhancing management and workforce skills.