

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016 - 2017 Additional Estimates
2 March 2017

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: International Science

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: AI-129

- (1) Is the Global Innovation Strategy the whole of government international science engagement strategy?
- (2) Are there other elements to international engagement activity not covered by the Global Innovation Strategy?
- (3) When was the Global Innovation Strategy released?
- (4) Which Departments were involved in the production of the strategy? Who was the lead Department?
- (5) What funding has been allocated towards international science engagement?
- (6) Is this, and the National Innovation and Science Agenda, the government's response to the Vision for a Science Nation consultation?
- (7) What are the synergies between international science collaboration and landing pads?
- (8) Are evaluation mechanisms planned for the strategy, or the individual programs initiated under the strategy?
- (9) What involvement was there with the Learned Academies in the development of the strategy? Will there be ongoing involvement with all the Learned Academies?
- (10) Will the strategy support Australian researcher's access major overseas research facilities?
- (11) What informal consultation measures are presently employed for international science issues? Will these continue?
- (12) What is the current composition of the science counsellors network?
 - a. Will any of the funding from the strategy be devoted to science diplomacy?

ANSWER

- (1) and (2) The Global Innovation Strategy provides an overarching policy framework for the wide range of international science and innovation engagement activities across government.
- (3) The Global Innovation Strategy policy document was released on 4 November 2016.
- (4) The development of the Global Innovation Strategy policy document was led by the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science, working in partnership with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and in consultation with departments and agencies across government that have involvement in innovation and science related international activities.
- (5) The Global Innovation Strategy provides a high-level summary of the key funding programs that support international science and innovation engagement (<https://industry.gov.au/innovation/GlobalInnovationStrategy/index.html>). The additional investment in the new Global Innovation Strategy initiatives is \$36 million over four years from 2017-18.
- (6) The Government's consultation on Vision for a Science Nation in July 2015 informed the development of science initiatives announced under the National Innovation and Science Agenda, including the Global Innovation Strategy.

- (7) Landing Pads is an initiative under the Global Innovation Strategy and is administered by Austrade. Landing Pads focus on the translation of ideas into new products and services and as such are an important part of the continuum of support for international innovation and science.
- (8) Evaluations will be undertaken for the Strategy and its funded initiatives in accordance with the processes outlined by department's evaluation unit. The first will be a post implementation review after the initiatives have completed their first funding rounds.
- (9) The Learned Academies are important partners in the delivery of the Global Innovation Strategy, and were consulted during its development.
- (10) The initiatives and other government programs can support access to overseas research facilities as part of broader project funding.
- (11) There are a number of formal and informal consultation processes around international science issues across government and with stakeholders to inform government policy. Current examples include the consultation to develop the Australian Government's Foreign Policy White Paper, the 2030 Strategic Plan for the Australian Innovation, Science and Research System and ongoing engagement with stakeholders on international science issues.
- (12) The Department of Industry, Innovation and Science's counsellor network currently consists of:
 - Minister Counsellor in Washington DC
 - Two Counsellors in Beijing (one at post currently and one expected to take up their role shortly)
 - Counsellor in Brussels
 - Counsellor in New Delhi
 - Counsellor in Tokyo (shared with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade)

There is also an agreement between the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science and the Department of Education and Training to work collaboratively through their respective international counsellor networks on international engagement in education, research and science. Both Departments also work closely with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and Austrade and their international networks.

- (12) a. The funding under the Global Innovation Strategy supports science and innovation collaboration as part of Australia's economic and science diplomacy agendas.