

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2014-15
2-3 June 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-181

1. In relation to the Entrepreneurs Infrastructure Program, please provide a breakdown of how the \$484.2 million allocated to this program in Budget Paper No.2 will be allocated between different elements of the program.
2. In relation to the Entrepreneurs Infrastructure Program, is the government considering charging individuals and businesses a fee for any of the services offered under this program?
3. In relation to the programs which are being cut to fund the Entrepreneurs Infrastructure Programme as listed in Budget Paper number 2:
 - a. Which of these measures are being cut immediately and which ones are being phased out?
 - b. How is the Department managing ongoing services to industry for the programs that are being phased out?
 - c. What date were Commercialisation Australia grants frozen? What dates were Enterprise Connect grants frozen?
 - d. How many applications have been made to those programs that are being cut that are now waiting on some sort of advice or resolution?

ANSWER

1. The budget for the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme is outlined and broken down to administered and departmental expenses on page 31 and capital funding on page 33 of the Industry Portfolio 2014-15 Portfolio Budget Statements.
2. No.
3.
 - a. As per listing in Budget Paper No. 2:
 - Australian Industry Participation – phased out
 - Commercialisation Australia – phased out
 - Enterprise Solutions Program – closed immediately
 - Innovation Investment Fund – phased out
 - Industry Innovation Councils – closed immediately
 - Enterprise Connect – phased out
 - Industry Innovation Precincts – phased out
 - Textile Clothing and Footwear Small Business Program – phased out
 - Clothing and Household Textiles Building Innovation Capability Program – phased out
 - b. **Opening up Opportunities through Australian Industry Participation:** Most of the programmes under this initiative will continue until the end of 2014.

Commercialisation Australia: Commercialisation Australia stopped accepting new applications on 21 March 2014. The program closed to new applications on Budget night. Applications received on or before 21 March 2014 will be progressed with up to \$37 million in grants expected to be awarded until 31 December 2014. All customers have been advised of the status of their application.

Enterprise Solutions Program: The Enterprise Solutions Programme will not proceed. The programme was not launched and no applications were received.

Innovation Investment Fund: There will be no new rounds of the Innovation Investment Fund.

Industry Innovation Councils: The last Industry Innovation Council ceased on 30 June 2013.

Enterprise Connect: The Enterprise Connect programme will close on 31 December 2014. Enterprise Connect stopped accepting new Business Review applications on 30 June 2014. The new Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme and Single Business Service delivery arrangements will assist with services to industry.

Industry Innovation Precincts: The 2014-15 Budget announced that the Industry Innovation Precincts Program will close on 31 December 2014.

Textile Clothing and Footwear Small Business Program: Applications for round 9 of the program are being assessed and the round will be finalised in June 2014. Round 10 of the 10 year program will not proceed.

Clothing and Household Textiles Building Innovation Capability Program: Eligible expenditure incurred by registered businesses in 2013-14 will be paid in 2014-15 as planned. Expenditure incurred after 30 June 2014 will not be eligible for support and the program will close one year early.

- c. Commercialisation Australia stopped accepting applications on 21 March 2014. Enterprise Connect stopped accepting new Business Review applications on 30 June 2014.
- d. As at 29 June 2014, there were 156 Enterprise Connect Tailored Advisory Service applications awaiting decision. These applications are being processed under the Enterprise Connect guidelines. There were no outstanding applications for other programmes.