

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Grant Application Feedback from Recipients

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 2 June 2014, pages 70-71)

QUESTION NO.: BI-36

Senator KIM CARR: So has there been a request to any of your grant recipients to write a report on how much time they are writing reports?

Mr Chesworth: I am not aware of that request. I will go and speak with my AusIndustry colleagues to check to see that that is the case and correct the record if need be.

Senator KIM CARR: It could be AusIndustry?

Mr Chesworth: AusIndustry, in our program delivery, have been working with us as part of our audit of, I guess, paperwork and compliance within the portfolio to help us understand the impact complying with program requirements has on clients of those programs.

Senator KIM CARR: So, you can assure me you would not be asking people about—

Ms Butler: Good afternoon, Senator.

Senator KIM CARR: Ms Butler, perhaps you can get to the bottom of this for me.

Ms Butler: I am not sure if I can get to the very bottom of it, but I was aware that we did put in some phone calls to some of our textile, clothing and footwear grant recipients. We certainly did not ask them to put things in writing.

Senator KIM CARR: Right. So they were verbal reports?

Ms Butler: My understanding is that was the case, Senator.

Senator KIM CARR: And what was the nature of these requests?

Ms Butler: The request was around the cost of applying for the program. It was around the application process. That is my understanding.

Senator KIM CARR: Did you ask them questions about the acquittal process?

Ms Butler: I am not sure what detail we went into. I just understood that this had taken place, but I was not personally responsible for it. I am very happy to provide you with some more information on notice.

Senator KIM CARR: Thank you very much. That would be very good. Are they the only people who were asked to write reports?

Ms Butler: It is the only one I was aware of. Once again, I probably should take it on notice and then I can get some more information to you.

ANSWER

AusIndustry contacted nine grant recipients under the Clothing and Household Textile Building Innovative Capacity Scheme and four grant recipients under the Automotive Diversification Program to inform the portfolio regulation audit. They were asked to verbally respond to a small number of questions about the time and cost associated with completing an application and adhering to compliance obligations.