

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
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AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Health Industries Forum

REFERENCE: Question on Notice, 4 June 2015, Pages 59-60

QUESTION No.: BI-54

Senator KIM CARR: Is this new body called the health and industry ministers forum?

Mr Chesworth: The health industries forum.

Senator KIM CARR: When is it going to meet?

Mr Chesworth: Fairly shortly. I do not have the date with me at the moment.

Senator KIM CARR: This year?

Mr Chesworth: Most certainly. I am sure it is in my diary in the next few weeks. If someone has the date handy I am sure they will pass it to me.

Senator KIM CARR: Will this be an all-in meeting involving the plastics industry and the food industry?

Mr Chesworth: That is what is intended.

Mr Lawrence: The process for the meeting is that stakeholders will be invited to register once a date has been determined, and a range of issues will be discussed at that meeting.

Senator KIM CARR: Will medical instruments be there? Will the textile people be there?

Mr Lawrence: That will be determined by the agenda.

Senator KIM CARR: I see. So you only go to a meeting if you are on the agenda—is that how it works?

Mr Chesworth: You mentioned the textiles—

Senator KIM CARR: Yes, textiles. Medical instruments are made out of textiles. Given that science and chemistry is the thread that runs through all of this, I thought you would want to make sure we get the—

Mr Chesworth: It is intended to be medical—

Senator KIM CARR: Not bandages? Health ministers are interested in bandages, I suppose.

Mr Chesworth: Medical devices can range from a tongue depressor to an MRI machine. So it is a very broad—

Senator KIM CARR: A tongue—

CHAIR: Okay. We all know a lot about it—a lot more than I do. Let us just get back to it.

Senator KIM CARR: So the people who will be attending will be determined by what is on the agenda? They will not register to attend? How does it work?

Mr Lawrence: Notification of the meeting will be sent to stakeholders and they will be—

Senator KIM CARR: Which ones?

Mr Lawrence: They will be from the various sectors that we have discussed. They will be invited to register.

Senator KIM CARR: How many plastics firms are there?

Mr Lawrence: I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

The Australian Business Register private dataset lists 3592 active firms involved in polymer (plastics) product and rubber product manufacturing (ANZSIC code 8C19) in 2014-15. At the Health Industry Forum held on 25 June 2015, plastics firms were represented by the following industry associations: the Plastics and Chemicals Industries Association (PACIA), Shirebiz and Accord.