

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Budget Estimates
6 May 2016

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Accelerating commercialisation grant applications

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Ketter

QUESTION No.: BI-6

Senator KETTER: While copies are being made, perhaps I could continue with my questions. Could you explain how applications are assessed and are there different stages in the assessment process?

Ms Morris: When an application is received, it goes through an expression-of-interest process. A commercialisation adviser assists through that process. The matter, then, goes to the entrepreneurs committee, which is a board. An assessment is performed by the committee using a range of metrics. Then, the applicant is advised whether or not they have been successful or unsuccessful.

Senator KETTER: Is the Innovation Australia board's R&D Incentives Committee responsible for assessing applications?

Ms Morris: No, it is the Entrepreneurs' Program Committee, which is a subcommittee of Innovation Australia.

Senator KETTER: So there is a subcommittee of Innovation Australia.

Ms Morris: That is correct.

Senator KETTER: What is involved in that assessment process they conduct?

Ms Morris: They have a range of merit criteria, which I do not have with me. I would have to take that on notice, I am afraid.

Senator KETTER: This letter tells us that the application was not competitive enough when compared with other applications under consideration.

Ms Morris: The program is highly competitive.

Senator KETTER: Can I ask how many applications were received?

Ms Morris: I do not have that number with me. I would have to take that on notice.

ANSWER

Merit criteria used by Accelerating Commercialisation:

The merit criteria are – 1. Need for Funding, 2. Market Opportunity, 3. Value Proposition, 4. Execution Plan, 5. Management Capability and 6. National Benefits. Application processes, including the merit criteria, are outlined in the Entrepreneurs' Programme Guidelines and the Accelerating Commercialisation Customer Information Guide. These are available at business.gov.au.

Applications received:

The number of applications considered by the committee can vary but usually ranges from 15 – 22 applications per meeting.