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**THE HON CHRISTOPHER PYNE MP**  
**MINISTER FOR INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE**  
**LEADER OF THE HOUSE**  
**MEMBER FOR STURT**

6 MAY 2016

Senator the Hon Kim Carr  
Shadow Minister for Higher Education, Research, Innovation and  
Industry  
Senator for Victoria  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

MC16-004582

Dear Senator

Thank you for your letter of 05 May 2016 concerning Dr John Cross and Expia.

Expia applied for an Accelerating Commercialisation grant from my Department, and unfortunately was not successful.

I can appreciate that Dr Cross is disappointed with the outcome of his application. Accelerating Commercialisation is a highly competitive grant process and I am advised that after careful review the Entrepreneurs' Programme Committee of Innovation Australia, of which Mr Marty Gauvin is not a member, determined that Dr Cross' application was not competitive enough when compared with other applications under consideration.

I can assure you that Committee members are selected for their extensive experience in commercialisation and strong industry linkages. They have a deep understanding of Accelerating Commercialisation and what constitutes a strong application.

The complaint from the company has been referred for internal review and will commence imminently. This review will be undertaken by a Division head external and independent to AusIndustry. The aim of the review is to provide an objective assessment of the process and procedures in all aspects of Expia's Application.

As you would know as a former Minister of this Department, the *Industry Research and Development Act 1986* specifically prevents my involvement in the consideration of individual applications.

Dr Cross has written to me previously and I have responded to him on the same basis as this letter.

Mr Grant Steinberg is Dr Cross' Commercialisation Adviser, and I would encourage him to continue to be in discussions with him on the outcome of the application. Mr Steinberg can be contacted on \_\_\_\_\_, or via email at \_\_\_\_\_.

Yours sincerely

~~Christopher~~ Christopher Pyne MP