

**Economics Legislation Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio  
2017 - 2018 Budget Estimates  
31 May – 1 June 2017

---

**AGENCY/DEPARTMENT:** DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

**TOPIC:** CRC (P) resourcing

**REFERENCE:** Written Question – Senator Carr

**QUESTION No.:** BI-127

1. What is the resourcing provided to the CRC (P) Committee?
  - a) Have there been changes made to the composition of the CRC (P) Committee?
  - b) Have there been any changes made to the processes since the program was announced that would increase the administrative burden on the Department or the evaluative burden on the Committee?
  - c) Have there been any changes to the size of the application form? Is it true that the form was recently doubled?
  - d) What was the rationale behind the change?
  - e) Is this change consistent with the Miles Recommendation eight (8) for a “simplified and more industry-focused selection and review process”?
  - f) Did the Department liaise with the Chair of the CRC (P) Committee about this since he gave a presentation to the CRC Association Conference on “tips for applicants” in which he detailed six tips for applicants including one to “keep it concise?”

**ANSWER**

1. The CRC Advisory Committee (a sub-committee of Innovation and Science Australia) has oversight of the CRC Programme, including both CRC and CRC Project funding streams. The Committee consists of up to seven members and is supported by the Department.
  - a) The CRC Advisory Committee was established in June 2015 with five members. In October 2016, two additional members were appointed. In March 2017 one member resigned. A process is currently underway to fill this vacancy.
  - b) No, there have been no changes to processes since the CRC Projects stream of the CRC Programme was announced.
  - c) Applications forms are reviewed regularly. Minor changes have been made to CRC Project applications forms over time. The 19<sup>th</sup> CRC selection round form is comparable in length to the form used in the 18<sup>th</sup> CRC selection round. The character limits have been increased in some sections to ensure that applicants have sufficient space to provide a comprehensive explanation of their proposal. The form has not doubled in length.
  - d) The changes to some sections are to ensure that applicants have sufficient space to provide a comprehensive explanation of their proposal and sufficient detail for the CRC Advisory Committee.
  - e) Yes. Applications prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> CRC selection round (the first round held since the Miles review) required significantly more information.

- f) Changes to forms were as a result of feedback from applicants, reviewers and the CRC Advisory Committee. Applicants are not required to complete each section up to the maximum available characters and succinct responses are encouraged.