

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: Inspiring all Australians in STEM

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: BI-94

1. What is the funding profile for Inspiring all Australians in STEM?
2. Is this a terminating or continuing program?
3. If terminating, when will funding cease?
4. What are the categories or components of the program?
5. Why did budgeted funding increase to \$26.089m in 2015-16? For what activities was this increased funding for?
6. Why has budgeted funding fallen from \$25.089m in 2015-16 to \$14.239m in 2016-17?

ANSWER

1. The DIIS funding profile for the ‘Inspiring all Australians in STEM’ programme is (extracted from *Portfolio Budget Statements 2017-18, Budget Related Paper No. 1.12, Table 2.1.2, p.30*):

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
\$14,239,000	\$12,239,000	\$12,225,000	\$9,405,000	\$9,405,000

2. ‘Inspiring all Australians in STEM’ is a continuing programme.
3. While this is a continuing programme, some elements within the broader programme will terminate – see below.
4. The current components of program are discussed below:

a) Inspiring Australia – Science Engagement Programme (continuing programme)

This supports a range of science communication and engagement activities to inspire, motivate and cultivate a scientifically engaged community across Australia. Programme elements include:

- Inspiring Australia state manager engagement network
- Decision maker engagement (Science meets Parliament)
- National Science Week
- Prime Ministers Prizes for Science
- Citizen Science Grants
- Maker Projects
- Sponsorship Grants for Student Science Engagement and International Competitions

b) Women in STEM and entrepreneurship

- Supporting the expansion of the Science in Australia Gender Equity (SAGE) project to include more Australian science and research institutions (**funding terminating 2018-19**).
- Establishing a new group of 'Male Champions of Change' focused on STEM-based and entrepreneurial industries (**funding terminating 2018-19**).
- Partnering with the private sector, community groups and educational organisations to foster interest in STEM and entrepreneurship amongst women and girls and celebrate female role models in STEM through a new grant programme (**continuing programme**).

5/6. The increase included one-off funding for the NISA campaign, which was allocated mostly to the 2015-16 financial year.