

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2014-15
23 October 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Appointments – Science Agencies

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No: SI-115

1. Please explain the reasons for the following vacancies listed in the Department's tabled information prior to the Supplementary Budget Estimates. For each vacancy, please provide the length of time the position has been vacant, the process for filling these vacancies and the expected timeframe for filling the vacancy:
 - a) Chairperson and two members of the Australia Telescope National Facility Steering Committee.
 - b) Chairperson and 13 members of the Australia-India Strategic Research Fund Advisory Panel.
 - c) Two members of the ANSTO Board.
 - d) Six members of the Innovation Australia Board.
 - e) Deputy Chairperson and three members of the Questacon Advisory Council.

ANSWER

1. Please refer to Attachment

ATTACHMENT: QoN SQ14-000520 (October 2014)

1.	Name of the Board	Vacancy	Reasons for the vacancy	Length of time the position has been vacant	The process for filling the vacancy	The expected timeframe for filling the vacancy
(a)	<u>Australia Telescope National Facility Steering Committee</u>	Chairperson and two members	Appointments concluded New governance processes in place	The appointment of the Chairperson and two members concluded on 31 December 2013.	As of August 2014, the Australia Telescope National Facility Steering Committee is an Advisory Committee of the CSIRO Board, appointed by the CSIRO Board under section 24 of the <i>Science and Industry Research Act 1949</i> , in consultation with the Secretary of Department of Industry. This Committee will no longer be reported under the Senate Standing Order 13, as it is no longer a Government appointed board.	The CSIRO Board appointed three new members at its meeting of 8 October 2014. The Board will consider its appointment of the Chair at its meeting of 4-5 December 2014.
(b)	<u>Australia-India Strategic Research Fund (AISRF) Advisory Panel</u>	Chairperson and 13 members	The AISRF Advisory Panel is engaged only for the periods necessary to assess applications received under the AISRF programme.	All positions on the panel were vacant from 1 January to 9 September 2014.	Appointment by Minister (with agreement from Prime Minister)	Chair and eight members were appointed by the Minister with effect from 10 September 2014 and there are no current vacancies.
(c)	<u>Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation Board (ANSTO)*</u>	Member	Appointment concluded	Since 25 July 2014	Appointment by Governor-General	The current ANSTO Board composition continues to comply with Section 9 of the <i>Australian Nuclear Science and</i>
		Member	Appointment concluded	Since 1 July 2014	Appointment by Governor-General	

						<i>Technology Organisation Act 1987.</i> The ANSTO Board is currently shortlisting candidates to fill the two existing vacancies.
(d)	<u>Innovation Australia Board*</u>	2 members	Appointment concluded	19 September 2014 – 12 November 2014 [2 months]	Appointment by Governor-General	Specific direction and role of the board is under consideration.
		3 members	Appointment concluded	13 October 2013 – 12 November 2014 [12 months]	Appointment by Governor-General	
		1 Member	Resigned	26 November 2013-12 November 2014 (12 months)	Appointment by Governor-General	
(e)	<u>Questacon Advisory Council</u>	Deputy Chairperson	Appointment concluded	Five months since 23/05/2014	Appointment by Minister (with agreement from Prime Minister)	Role of council is under consideration. Positions will remain vacant until outcome is known. Outcome expected in 2015.
		Member	Appointment concluded	Five months since 31/05/2014	Appointment by Minister (with agreement from Prime Minister)	
		Member	Appointment concluded	Four months since 05/07/2014	Appointment by Minister (with agreement from Prime Minister)	
		Member	Appointment concluded	One year and four months since 30/06/2013	Appointment by Minister (with agreement from Prime Minister)	

*Board legislation requires for appointments to be endorsed by the Governor-General following nomination by the Minister and endorsement by Prime Minister/Cabinet.