

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

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Written, 3 November 2014)

QUESTION No.: SI-120

1. In relation to the Accelerating Commercialisation stream of the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Program announced 31 October 2014:
 - a. Please provide a detailed summary outlining the main points of difference between the now abolished Commercialisation Australia and the Accelerating Commercialisation initiative announced 31 October 2014.
 - b. Were the guidelines for this program developed by PM&C or the Department of Industry?
 - c. What consultation did the Department undertake with external stakeholders on development of this measure? Who is responsible for stakeholder consultations, PM&C or the Department?
2. Regarding the Entrepreneurs Infrastructure Program and a listing in the grants register for an "AusIndustry Sponsorship of Indian Ocean Rim Business Lunch" for the value of \$4,400 at Burswood Casino in WA – please provide a detailed breakdown outlining what this expenditure was for.

ANSWER

1. (a) As an element of the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme (EIP), Accelerating Commercialisation's primary focus is on providing access to the best advice and networks to solve problems rather than focusing on financial assistance. A new feature will be the engagement of Business Development experts to accelerate the development of networks and linkages within a 'Portfolio' of Australian businesses undertaking early stage activities. The global visibility of the Portfolio will also be increased through support for in-bound and out-bound roadshows to facilitate the networking and promotion of our best Australian early stage businesses. The upper limit for matched grant funding is \$1 million compared to \$2 million per individual grant under Commercialisation Australia.
 - (b) The guidelines were developed by the Department of Industry in consultation with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet and the Department of Finance in line with usual practice.
 - (c) The Department of Industry was responsible for external stakeholder consultations and conducted a series of roundtables in Sydney, Melbourne, and Adelaide throughout September 2014. This followed the release of the EIP Discussion Paper and consultation undertaken in June.

2. Through this sponsorship, the Department of Industry supported the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Western Australia to host a luncheon aimed at introducing participants to business contacts and opportunities with delegates from up to twenty Indian Ocean Rim countries. The event announced a new business alliance that the Department had helped to establish, focused on Australian business access to supply chains in the Indian Ocean region and was a significant opportunity to promote the new Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme and other AusIndustry programmes. The sponsorship package provided the following benefits:
- Recognition as a sponsor of the event.
 - The Department of Industry's banner displayed in a prominent position in the main function room.
 - The Department's logo/name appearing on all promotional activities.
 - Acknowledgement in the opening and closing speeches.
 - A short speaking slot during the welcome address.
 - Representatives seated on a VIP table.