

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing
22 October 2015

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Breakdown of ministerial responsibilities

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 22 October 2015, page 75)

QUESTION No.: SI-21

Senator KIM CARR: I would be interested to know if I could get a clear statement as to what assistant ministers are responsible for.

Senator Ryan: Can I take that on notice on behalf of the minister, because those issues are usually dealt with at a portfolio level between minister and parliamentary secretary or assistant minister and junior minister.

Senator KIM CARR: That might be the case, Senator Ryan, but certainly in my time, parliamentary secretaries were allocated responsibilities which the department knew about so that they could actually deal in an administrative sense with particular divisions or programs. Is that the case under this minister?

Ms Beauchamp: Both Minister Frydenberg and Minister Pyne have given us some clear guidance in terms of responsibility of the assistant ministers, but until that is absolutely formalised through the political process it is probably unwise for me to go into detail about that.

Senator KIM CARR: I see. So we are still working that out.

Ms Beauchamp: We just need to confirm it.

Senator KIM CARR: So you want to take it on notice?

Ms Beauchamp: Indeed.

Senator KIM CARR: Would you provide then a breakdown of all the policy areas—program areas—listed in the department's organisational chart, outlining how they report to Ministers Pyne and Frydenberg and Assistant Ministers Andrews and Roy? Can you provide that information?

Ms Beauchamp: Taking the previous question on notice until it is confirmed, I can certainly provide that.

Senator KIM CARR: I need that level of detail, if you would not mind.

Ms Beauchamp: Yes.

ANSWER

All policy and programme areas in the department provide briefing and support to Ministers and Assistant Ministers on subject matters relevant to their areas of responsibility as outlined below.

Minister Pyne is responsible for all matters related to innovation, industry and science.

- Assistant Minister Roy assists Minister Pyne on matters related to innovation policy, including intellectual property.
- Assistant Minister Andrews assists Minister Pyne of matters related to science.

Minister Frydenberg is responsible for all matters related to resources, energy and northern Australia.