

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

AGENCY: IP AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: Economic impact of innovation patents

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-78

1. Please provide an update on IP Australia's report on the economic impact of innovation patents, including (but not limited to):
 - a. Is it IP Australia's recommendation that the innovation patent system be abolished?
 - b. Does the available data suggest there is a link between manufacturing R&D investment and innovation patents?

ANSWER

- 1a. IP Australia will consider the submissions received in the recent consultation process as well as any information flowing from the Productivity Commission inquiry, when it makes its recommendation to Government about the innovation patent system.
- 1b. The available data is insufficient to test for a causal link between manufacturing research and development (R&D) investment and innovation patents. The available data has not allowed causality testing, that is, we cannot say if firms spend more on R&D because innovation patents exist and we cannot say if firms' R&D expenditure would remain constant if innovation patents were abolished.