

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation and Science Portfolio
2016-17 Supplementary Budget Estimates
20 October 2016

DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Entrepreneurs' Program

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Carr

QUESTION No.: SI-60

1. When were the program guidelines for the Entrepreneurs' Program last updated? What were the changes to the guidelines and why were these required?
2. How does the Department select industry partners to participate in the Entrepreneurs' Program?
3. In relation to the Entrepreneurs' Program, please provide a detailed breakdown outlining how many industry partners currently participate in the program and, against each industry partner, the corresponding number of business advisers currently delivering services as part of the program.
4. Is the NSW Business Chamber of Commerce an industry partner in the Entrepreneurs' Program? If so, what is the value of the contract with the NSW Business Chamber of Commerce and how many business advisers do they employ to deliver program services?
5. How does the Department manage potential conflicts of interest that arise when third parties deliver services on behalf of the Commonwealth? Is the Department aware of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to services delivered by industry partners as part of the Entrepreneurs' Program?

ANSWER

1. The guidelines for the Entrepreneurs' programme were last updated on 11 October 2016 and were limited to Schedule E (Incubator Support). The update was to the eligibility criteria and eligible expenditure rules and were necessary to clarify eligibility parameters.
2. The Industry Partners were selected through an open tender process.

3.

Industry Partners	Specified Positions			
	Business Advisers	Business Facilitators	Innovation Facilitator	Total
Austmine Limited	6	1		7
Australian Industry Group	20	4	2	26
Australian Manufacturing Technology Institute Limited	6		3	9
Business Foundations Incorporated	3		6	9
Business SA	5			5
Chamber of Commerce & Industry of Western Australia Incorporated	5			5
Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO)			7	7
Deloitte Private Pty Ltd	16	2	2	20
Geelong Manufacturing Council	2	3		5
NSW Business Chamber	14	3	1	18
Total	77	13	21	111

4. Yes, the NSW Business Chamber of Commerce is an Industry Partner for the Entrepreneurs' Programme. The value of the contract is \$13,938,230.53 (GST inclusive) for three years. They manage 17 Business Advisers/Facilitators, and one Innovation Facilitator – a total of 18 personnel to deliver services for the Entrepreneurs' Programme.

5. The contracts between the Commonwealth and the Industry Partners contain provisions governing conflicts of interest, as well as provisions guiding the action the Commonwealth may take in the event false or misleading information has been provided, or if a conflict of interest is identified. The department is not aware of any actual or perceived conflicts of interest in relation to services delivered by Industry Partners as part of the Entrepreneurs' Programme.