

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Additional Estimates Hearing 2009-10
10 February 2010

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Business Enterprise Centres (BEC)

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Eggleston

QUESTION No.: AI-40

For each of the Business Enterprise Centres (BEC);

- a. What is their budget?
- b. What is the staff numbers by position and location?
- c. Does the program operate independently of other programs?
- d. Where are the programs located?
- e. Is there any sharing of staff, offices, IT or administration with any other program, is so, provide details?
- f. Is there any overlap/commonality between users of the services provided by each of the Business Enterprise Centres, Enterprise Connect, AusIndustry and the Industry capability Network and Supplier Access to Major Projects Program?

ANSWER

- a. This information is not available. Business Enterprise Centres (BEC) are not part of the Department. They are independent bodies. (Refer to Senate Hansard, Economics Legislation Committee, 10 February 2010, E89-E92).
- b. See answer to a.
- c. Refer to question AI 42 (b, c & d).
- d. A list of the 36 Business Enterprise Centres is available on the AusIndustry website. Link attached.
<http://www.ausindustry.gov.au/SmallBusiness/SmallBusinessAdvisoryServices/Documents/BE%20Contact%20List%20Feb10.pdf>
- e. Yes, see answer to question AI-42 (b, c & d).
- f. The listed programs/entities have different, and complementary, functions and objectives. There may be companies that access different programs and/or services available through Business Enterprise Centres, Enterprise Connect, AusIndustry and the Industry Capability Network. The Supplier Access to Major Projects program does not fund companies. It funds existing networks, predominantly the state industry Capability Network offices, to connect Australian companies with major project supply opportunities.