

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry Portfolio
Additional Budget Estimates Hearing 2013-14
27 February 2014

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY

TOPIC: Pre-election Commitments or Decisions

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Bushby

QUESTION No.: AI-100

1. Had your Department or agency issued any correspondence containing offers or proposals of grants in the caretaker period or on the cusp of caretaker mode? Can you please provide details of what date such correspondence was issued and how many groups were written to?
2. Have there been any contracts signed by your Department or agency in the caretaker period? Can you please provide details of the amounts involved?
 - a. Who were the other parties to these contracts?
 - b. What was the extent of any competitive process?
 - c. What was the level of involvement by Ministers and/or their offices?
3. How much funding has this agency provided to unions over the past three years, whether through grants, procurement or other mechanisms?
4. Were any contract negotiations called off in the past year after short-listing but before execution of contracts?
5. Were there any appointments made by Ministers to board positions or other senior or representative roles within your portfolio on the cusp of caretaker period, or during caretaker period?
 - a. What were the dates of such decisions?
 - b. What processes were involved in these appointment decisions?
 - c. How were these decisions each announced?
6. How much has your agency spent in the last year on PR firms, focus groups, lobbyists or external communications contracts or services? What were the decision processes for those contracts and what was the level of Ministerial or Minister office input into those decisions?

ANSWER

1. In accordance with caretaker conventions, the department did not enter into major or significant contracts or undertakings during the caretaker period. The below table provides details on offers or proposals of grants during the caretaker period or on the cusp of caretaker that were not deemed major or significant.

Date of correspondence	Number of groups
5 August 2013	17
6-16 August 2013	1
7 August 2013	1
7 August 2013	1
12 August 2013	11
13 August 2013	9

14 August 2013	6
16 August 2013	5
19 August 2013	7
20 August 2013	3
21 August 2013	8
22 August 2013	6
23 August 2013	1
26 August 2013	8
27 August 2013	1
28 August 2013	19

2. Details of relevant procurement contracts undertaken in the caretaker period are available at www.tenders.gov.au. There was no level of involvement of the Minister or his office on any contracts during this period.
3. The department has made payments totalling \$750 (GST inclusive) to unions over the past three years in relation to staff training.
4. To provide this level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.
5. Please refer to the ausgovboards.gov.au website.
6. To provide this level of detail would require an unreasonable diversion of resources.