

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 30-31 May 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
IP AUSTRALIA
GEOSCIENCE AUSTRALIA

TOPIC: EMPLOYEES WITH OTHER LANGUAGE SKILLS

REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.74
(Written QON)

Senator Ludwig asked:

This question is a follow-up to a question Senator Ludwig asked in the 2004-05 Supplementary Estimates.

Regarding the employees that your Department or Agency has identified as having:

- a) fluency;
- b) accredited translator qualifications; or
- c) accredited interpreter qualifications.

Of these employees, please indicate what the Department is doing in order to make full use of its employees skills in this regard, and please provide a breakdown of this between employees whose accreditation was paid for by the Department and those whose were not?

ANSWER

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources and Geoscience Australia do not have any additional information to add to the response provided previously.

IP Australia pays an annual translation allowance to those Patent Examiners required to translate disclosures from languages other than English. The documents are generally technical in nature and restricted to the Examiner's field of expertise. Language training is not provided by IP Australia.

IP Australia trialled the use of a voluntary register of people who were fluent in non-English languages to assist with general translation needs. However, the register did not prove to be effective and when translation is required, other than for the technical patent disclosures mentioned above, IP Australia uses the translation service provided by the Department of Immigration, Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.