

Economics Legislation Committee

Budget Estimates Hearings May/June 2005

ITR Portfolio

Q Number	Senator	Agency	Hearing Date	Subject	Hansard Page	Date received	Date to Senator	Add info
BI 05/1	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—What does ‘ons and offs’ mean? Ms Foster—New policy coming on, dropping off, programs lapsing, rephasings—those sorts of normal flows. Senator LUNDY—It shows a net reduction of some \$9 million by 2008-09. Is that normal ons and offs? Ms Foster—It would be, and for us to drill down any further on those figures I would have to do some more detailed analysis. But it is just showing the normal flow with the forward estimates and current funding. Senator LUNDY—I would like some more detail because I have several more questions about this. Are you able to put a figure on employees against that reduction in expenditure for employees over the out years? Ms Foster—We should be able to do that. We will see if we can get that information back to you today. Senator LUNDY—Okay.	E3	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR1
BI 05/2	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Accepting what you say, if you look at the year 2005-06, which is your peak, there is a decline of \$5 million in the next year. That is not that far away. There must be some significant shift in the programs to warrant the cut of \$5 million in terms of staffing. Senator LUNDY—We are making it easy for you by just going to the next financial year—that is, 2006-07—where there is a \$5 million cut between this forthcoming financial year and that financial year. So can you explain what programs will be cut and what staff will be cut to satisfy that reduction of \$5 million? Mr Paterson—When you say programs that will be cut, they will	E4	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR2

BI 05/3	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	invariably be programs that will lapse or have a profile that is lower in the out years than in the current year. We will come back to you in relation to the detail of those numbers. Senator LUNDY—Perhaps you could tell us what your turnover has been like—how many new staff have come on and how many have left? Mr Paterson—It varies. Do you want overall numbers? Senator LUNDY—For this current financial year. Ms Foster—We would have to come back to you on that. Senator LUNDY—Can you provide the committee with a table that shows current staffing against each of the groups, branches, sections and administered programs so that we can have a clear picture of the staffing resources allocated to each of those tasks within the department? Ms Foster—For this financial year? Senator LUNDY—If you have one for next financial year that would be helpful too, and then we can compare them. Ms Foster—There is quite an amount of work to be done to provide such a detailed table. I am happy to do that but I would have to take the question on notice.	E4	15/8/05	17/8/05	I TR3
BI 05/4	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Are there any other programs, however minor, that will be either cut or reduced? Ms Foster—Not that I can see here in front of me, no. Senator LUNDY—That was not my question. Are there any others, whether you can see them in front of you or not? Mr Paterson—We will get the detailed responses to your questions.	E5	15/8/05	17/8/05	I TR4
BI 05/5	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—You would know whether there was going to be any other cuts or reductions to other programs within your department, surely? Mr Paterson—In terms of substantial changes? Senator LUNDY—No, that is not my question. Are there going to be any cuts or reductions? Mr Paterson—We will come back to you with the detail of the	E5	15/8/05	17/8/05	I TR4

BI 05/6	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	answer. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —I must say I am a bit disappointed that you cannot get these figures on an up-to-date basis. We know what is in the annual report for 2003-04. Can I ask you, Mr Noonan, to take that question on notice and provide us as soon as possible with a list of the consultancies, what area the consultancies are working in and for what purposes they were engaged, and the names of the firms who are performing the consultancies? Mr Noonan —Certainly. I will take that on notice.	E9-10	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR120
BI 05/7	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —Can you give us a breakdown of the line item supplier and its various subgroups? Mr Noonan —Yes. I will take that on notice.	E10	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR5
BI 05/8	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —On page 63 of the PBS at table 5.2 there is a line item 'intangibles'. What does that cover? Mr Noonan —That would be computer software in particular. That would probably be the largest component of it. Ms Foster —It includes the amortisation of intangible assets—software. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —Could you give us a breakdown of the items covered under that line item? Mr Noonan —Yes, I will take that on notice.	E11	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR6 and ITR7
BI 05/9	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY —Staying with those appropriations, we have been through the questions on staffing and some of the changes that are taking place, but can we go through these reductions more on a program basis or a policy unit resource allocation basis and itemise each of those? Ms Foster —We will have to get back to you on that.	E12	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR4
BI 05/10	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY —Later on we want to go into more detail on each of these programs, but I just want to get something clear: can you itemise now the programs that are funded from within departmental appropriations which fall under outcome 2 and outcome 1? They are not listed separately in the PBS but fall into this category that Senator Campbell has outlined. They are	E18	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR4

BI 05/11	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	referenced in the annual report, hence the Innovation Awareness Strategy and have formed part of the suite of programs that the department has delivered. Mr Peel—I do not believe there are any programs that AusIndustry manages funded from the departmental area—there may be others. Senator LUNDY—In relation to outcome 2? Mr Mackey—I believe we can provide that information. We do not have it in front of us but we will take it on notice and provide it to you. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Are you able to tell us how many of the staff who are on AWAs are being paid more than the pay band for their classification under the certified agreement? Mr P Noonan—I cannot tell you how many are in that category. The AWA varies in what it provides, and certainly some salary levels would be above the certified agreement classification band, but I am unable to tell you exactly how. I would have to study each AWA, essentially. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—If there are people in that category, why were they not just promoted to the higher classification? Mr P Noonan—The extent to which the salary increase might exceed the band might be quite a small amount, not even enough to get to the bottom level of the next band. In several cases, that would be the case. In other cases, the AWA would relate to a particular project or something that is of certain duration that is not going to go on indefinitely and therefore there is no justification to create a permanent position at that higher level. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Is it possible for you to take that on notice, Mr Noonan, and give us a breakdown of those figures? Mr P Noonan—Yes. So this would be a breakdown of the number of AWAs—	E25	See answer to Senator Carr's written QoN (BI 05/85C)	
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BI 05/12	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—The number of individuals on AWAs who are being paid at a rate higher than the band that they would be paid under the certified agreement. Mr P Noonan—Yes, I can certainly take that on notice. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—How many staff in the agency are eligible for performance based pay? Mr P Noonan—Excluding that category, there would be a subset of those on AWAs. So not all AWAs would provide for performance pay but certainly a proportion of them would. I do not have a number. I should say that I am addressing here the non-SES staff because that is where the certified agreements sit. All our SES staff are on AWAs, and that has been the case for some time. So there is no certified agreement that applies to our SES staff. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Could you take that on notice and provide us with those numbers? Mr P Noonan—Yes.	E25-26	See answer to Senator Carr's written QoN (BI 05/83A)
BI 05/13	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you also provide us with a breakdown of the aggregate performance based pay outcomes by classification and by gender, and if performance based pay is available under the certified agreements as well as AWAs by a form of agreement? You said it is not, that it is only where it is linked to an increase— Mr P Noonan—Yes. You would not normally characterise that as performance based pay under the certified agreement. But under the AWAs a number would have performance based arrangements. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you take that on notice? Mr P Noonan—Yes.	E26	See answer to Senator Carr's written QoN (BI 05/83B)
BI 05/14	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—The appreciation of the Australian dollar. Mr Lowndes—I can tell you how much it has appreciated. Senator LUNDY—Thank you. Mr Lowndes—In May 2001, \$A1 was worth US51c. In April 2005, the amount had gone to US78c.	E36	15/8/05 17/8/05 ITR8

BI 05/15	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—What about Asian currencies? Mr Lowndes—For the same dates, the yen has gone from ¥60.7 to ¥82.3. And to give a more overall picture, for the trade weighted index, which is kind of a composite of currencies, the figures are 49.3 to 64. We have not changed much against the European currencies; it has been mainly the US and the Asian countries where we have appreciated. Senator LUNDY—You said Japan. Can you go through China and other Asian countries? Mr Lowndes—I can get the information; I do not have all the exchange rates with me. Senator LUNDY—So this is the period following the election where you were specifically consulting about this fund—not prior to the election? Ms Weston—Yes. Senator LUNDY—So COSBOA was one of them? Ms Weston—I would need to check that. Senator LUNDY—If you could take it on notice. The information I want is about specific meetings that were convened around this issue or that identifiably had this issue on the agenda—not references in speeches at events, but specific engagement.	E42	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR9
BI 05/16	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Regarding the exercise of writing letters, organising meetings and issuing press releases, were the costs of the resources associated with that effort built up against the \$50 million fund itself? Ms Weston—Yes, that is right. Senator LUNDY—What was the total cost? Ms Weston—I do not have a cost for that activity. I will have to go back and find that out for you. Senator LUNDY—Can you give me a ballpark figure? Ms Weston—I am sorry; I do not have that here but I can find it out for you.	E42	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR10
BI 05/17	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—So which councils are involved in the	E47	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR11

BI 05/18	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	discussions? Mr Griffin—For future programs? At present it is difficult to really give an outline of those. We are speaking to a number of them, but we have not altogether firmed those up. So it would be inappropriate for me to give the names of those councils until we firm them up and actually sign the grant deeds. Some of them are keen and they do not proceed when they look at what is involved. Others are often not so keen and they do proceed when they realise that they can do it. It is probably inappropriate if we name those at present until such time as they do sign up. Senator LUNDY—Can you provide the committee with that information as it becomes available and those agreements are signed? Mr Griffin—Certainly. Senator LUNDY—Can you take on notice to provide the specific examples of the regular reduction initiatives through each of the current grants, the five consortia that you outlined, and also take on notice when you do finalise agreements with councils that you are continuing to negotiate with, presumably resolved by the end of this financial year, to provide the additional information for them as well? Mr Griffin—Certainly. Senator LUNDY—As part of that, to provide the actual amount of the grant and the conditions by which the groups need to acquit against that grant. Mr Griffin—That was a grant deed. We will provide you with copies of the grant deed.	E50	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR11
BI 05/19	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Can you provide copies of the correspondence that the minister wrote—a copy of the correspondence to local councils, a copy of the correspondence to ALGA and a copy of the correspondence to the various business groups and a full list of the business groups? Ms Weston—I will confirm that with the minister. Senator LUNDY—Thank you.	E50	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR12

BI 05/20	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—How much have you allocated for that review? Ms Weston—I think it is around \$100,000. If that is not correct, I will get back to you.	E53	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR13
BI 05/21	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Considering that the review of the Ballarat incubator has been finalised and the Minister for Small Business and Tourism indicated to the shadow minister on 24 May 2005 that the Ballarat small business incubator is generally complying with its major contractual obligations under the Small Business Incubator Program, can the committee be provided with a copy of that review? Mr Peel—I will take that on notice and check that out.	E54	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR14 Review not provided on claims of confidentiality
BI 05/22	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—So the bottom line is you are not able to see what happens after the first year, the second year or the third year and compare success rates? Ms Weston—I am not sure how far back we go in terms of speaking to people who have been participants in the program. That is something that I could find out. Senator LUNDY—If you could take that on notice. Ms Weston—Sure.	E56	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR15 Figures not provided. Requested information "imposes an administrative burden which these businesses and the incubator managers do not support"
BI 05/23	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—I ask that, because I know DOCITA recently undertook their own investigations relating to ICT contracts. They engaged a consultant who prepared a different methodology that involves surveys, not just the pure gazette data. Are you aware of that? Ms Weston—I think that had been raised with me recently. I am not sure whether this survey is done according to that	E56	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR128

				methodology. Senator LUNDY —Could you take on notice to provide the full methodology for this survey, and also whatever results you have got on the system? I presume they are published on the web site. Ms Weston —I will have to confirm that. It would be with the department of finance, because they have government responsibility for procurement. I will confirm where it is located.				
BI 05/88	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Where are the figures on small to medium enterprise access to government contracts sourced from?	E60	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR127
BI 05/89	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Can you provide the full methodology for this survey and also the results you have got on the system?	E60	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR128
BI 05/24A	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY —Which contractors are engaged to support the business entry point website? Ms Johnson —We have a range of both contracts and contractors and we would be happy to provide those to you; there are quite a large number. It is mostly internally operated. Senator LUNDY —That was my understanding. Ms Johnson —It is an internally operated initiative. There is an element of the infrastructure which is managed in an arrangement with the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations and so in that sense that is a service DEWR provide for us; that is our secure web posting and the secure gateway for the business entry point. Senator LUNDY —So do you pay them? Ms Johnson —Yes, we do. Senator LUNDY —Is that what that \$2.53 million accounts for? Ms Johnson —No, we pay DEWR in the order of about \$450,000 a year.	E64	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR16
BI 05/24B	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY —Could you provide a full breakdown of the provision of site costs—that is, the amount ranging between \$6.5 million and \$7.2 million—and then also itemise the remaining proportion of that allocation, including details of contract value and contractors, into departmental payments—the full kit and	E64	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR17

BI 05/25	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	caboodle? Ms Johnson—We can certainly do that. Senator LUNDY—How much of that money is for software licensing? Ms Johnson—I would have to get back to you on that. We have a range of software licences in relation to the business entry point, including content management type licences and various software monitoring for the site. There would be a large number of licences involved in operating the business entry point, but we can provide those for you. Senator LUNDY—I look forward to it.	E64	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR18
BI 05/26	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Ms Berman—In relation to TechFast it was a one-off \$2.5 million. The funding was provided to the Australian Institute for Commercialisation for them to do some pilot work on linking up research institutions and small and medium sized businesses with a view to transferring IP from the research institution into a useful outcome in firms. A contract was set up, the process is in place and all the funding will be expended by the end of June this year. We will be receiving a report from the contractee about how it has progressed but we expect it will result in transfer of IP and, hopefully, improve competitiveness in the firms that have picked up the IP and translated it into new technologies. Senator LUNDY—Is that report going to be made public? Ms Berman—At this point I am not in a position to comment on that. Part of our contractual obligation was that they would give us a report on the outcome. We will pass that to the minister and he can determine what he does with it. Senator LUNDY—In anticipation of that report, I place on notice for a copy of that to be provided to the committee when it is able to be provided, either when it is public or when it is on the public record. Ms Berman—Certainly.	E69	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR19
BI 05/27	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Has the department provided any grants to the company?	E69-70	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR20

BI 05/28	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Mr Peel—It has. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you outline what those grants are? Mr Peel—Under the confidentiality provisions of the program I am not able to provide that to you unless I seek the permission of Kimberly-Clark. I am happy to do that and take it on notice. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I presume it is on the transcript in the Federal Court? Mr Peel—I am not sure that it would be. What would be on the transcript of the Federal Court are the grants that Kimberly-Clark is seeking and that we are denying, rather than the grants that they have actually received. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I will ask you to take that on notice and seek their approval to provide us with those figures. Mr Peel—We will do that.	E70	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR21
BI 05/29	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Just out of curiosity, Mr Peel, can you identify what Kimberly-Clark's Australian sales were in the year they claimed the TCF SIP grant? Mr Peel—No, I do not have that here. I will take it on notice. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—You say that the matter is down for a hearing on 20 June? Mr Sexton—Yes. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Who is appearing for the department? Mr Sexton—I cannot identify the name of the barrister that will be appearing. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—You do not know who it is? Mr Sexton—I can get you that name. I do not have it handy.	E71	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR22
BI 05/30	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you advise us how much money has been spent on this matter to date? Mr Peel—I think we will have to take that on notice. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you take on notice the breakdown of the cost of the AAT action, the Federal Court action and the appeal?	E71	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR23

BI 05/31	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Mr Peel—Yes. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—In the current financial year, how often has the department required external legal advice on space law? Mr P Noonan—We would have to take that on notice. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Dr Green? Dr Green—I am not aware that I have sought legal advice in this most recent financial year. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Is it a handful or is it a regular occurrence? Mr P Noonan—I would have to take on notice how much work is in that area, but the number that I quoted before for external legal services includes Geoscience Australia, which would be another entity which would make extensive use of satellite time. But I could not say how much that involves legal work. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you take it on notice to provide us with the answer to that for the current financial year and last financial year? Could you also take on notice what proportion of the department's legal services spending has involved space law matters? Mr P Noonan—Yes, I can.	E73	19/9/05	19/9/05	I7R89 and I7R90
BI 05/32	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Are you able to provide the breakdown of how much each of the participants claimed under the scheme—for example, in the motor vehicle producers category? Mr Peel—In broad terms, the scheme is divided on a 55-45 basis, with about 55 per cent of the value of the scheme going to motor vehicle producers and 45 per cent to the other categories, but I do not have a specific breakdown for each category with me today. I would have to take that on notice. Senator LUNDY—If you could take it on notice.	E74	15/8/05	17/8/05	I7R24
BI 05/33	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Mr Peel—In the current financial year as at 30 April we have issued \$321.79 million in capped credits and \$158.97 million in uncapped credits. Senator LUNDY—Are you able to break down the capped and	E75	15/8/05	17/8/05	I7R24

BI 05/33A	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	uncapped between the different categories, motor vehicle producers, automotive component manufacturers et cetera. Mr Peel—We are, but I just do not have that here so I will take that on notice. Can you provide a breakdown of the \$2.8 billion in funding for ACIS 2 over the next five financial years?	E76	15/8/05	17/8/05	IIR25
BI 05/34	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Thank you for that. That still points to at least some level of organisation and planning in the department that compiled this data to be in a usable form for your officer who is participating directly in that process. I would like to place on notice or ask you directly for any documents prepared for that purpose by the department that informed that officer's work as part of the interdepartmental committee. Mr Paterson—We will take the question on notice and examine whether there are any documents independent of the provision of advice to government on policy considerations. Senator LUNDY—I am not looking for that, because I do understand the rules, but I am sure there are basic documents outlining the state of play in these various sectors that would have been used as a resource as part of this exercise. Mr Paterson—If there are documents that fall outside the restriction then we will provide them to you.	E85	15/8/05	17/8/05	IIR27
BI 05/35	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Just to drill down a little further, could you take on notice the full list of organisations that have been contacted by the department for the purpose of consulting on the Chinese FTA. Mr Miley—They will have been contacted by DFAT—rather than having multiconsultations and multicontact it occurs through DFAT—but we can give you a list of those for the feasibility stage and also the stage so far. We do not have a list of those who have been circularised for the upcoming consultations.	E86	15/8/05	17/8/05	IIR28
BI 05/36	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Thank you for that comprehensive answer. Were those meetings minuted and can you provide the minutes to the committee?	E91	15/8/05	17/8/05	IIR26

BI 05/37	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Mr Clarke—Which minutes are you talking about? I do not know if there are minutes as such. Senator LUNDY—Either the interdepartmental ones or indeed the meetings with representatives of industry. Mr Clarke—There are no minutes at the interdepartmental level. As for the meetings with industry, I will have to take that on notice. I have not seen them. Senator LUNDY—If you could, I would be grateful. Thank you. Senator LUNDY—What objective was trying to be achieved from those consultations, from the department's perspective? Mr Clarke—First of all, the meetings with the motor vehicle producers were at their request—they came to see us—so there was no purpose behind those meetings from our viewpoint. Obviously we are listening to them. With the meetings with the others, the objective was to look at workplace relations and productivity improvements that have happened at the industry level. Senator LUNDY—Along the lines of what we were discussing? Mr Clarke—More or less, yes. Senator LUNDY—I do not want to go through it all again. Mr Clarke—No. That is right. Senator LUNDY—If you could take that on notice— Mr Clarke—I will take that on notice. Senator LUNDY—that would be helpful. Thank you.	E91	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR26
BI 05/38	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—How unusual is it to reject a rephrasing request for something like this—an ongoing program? Senator Minchin—I do not want to comment on that on the run. I do not recall the rationale for that particular one. I am happy to be reminded overnight, if you would like me to come back tomorrow. Senator LUNDY—Take it on notice? Senator Minchin—Yes, sure. I am happy to do it. Senator LUNDY—That would be excellent. If you could come back tomorrow, that would be even better, if you can provide any	E98	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR29

BI 05/39	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	particular insights.	E98	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR30
BI 05/40	Campbell	DITR	30/5/05	Ms Berman—I am saying that after Thursday I may be in a better position to be able to say when it might be. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—If you can be more definite after Thursday, Ms Berman, would you mind letting us know? Ms Berman—Certainly, yes Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I understand that. But why can't that information be provided? We are not asking for any commercial-in-confidence information. If they have set up a bank or a factory or if they are processing minerals, I would not see that as being commercial-in-confidence. Mr Jones—Some of the companies we deal with are sensitive about providing details such as the number of jobs in the establishment they are setting up here or the precise nature of the business they are establishing here. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—I did not ask you to indicate the number of jobs. Mr Jones—You just want a description of the investment, essentially? Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Yes. What the investment is and what the value of it is. Mr Jones—I should be able to provide the description of the investment. Where possible, I will provide the value. There may be some instances where the company does not want us to disclose the individual value, but I will see what I can do there. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—All right. Take it on notice. If there is commercial sensitivity about it, you can indicate that. Senator LUNDY—I would like to ask a couple of general questions relating to the impact on Australian businesses of the US-Australia Free Trade Agreement. I am happy for these to be taken on notice if necessary. I referred earlier in the day to an independent report of an ICT-SME joint industry-government working party. The document raises an issue that has more general implications for Australian businesses trying to tender for	E101-2	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR31
BI 05/41	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05		E103-4	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR32

				work in the US for US government clients. The small businesses and the industry associations who have put their name to this report state that under the new FTA arrangements programs such as the US government's Small Business Set Aside Program would no longer exclude Australian SMEs—or so it was claimed in the lead up to the agreement. This report states emphatically that that is not the case. It is the immediate concern of Australian small businesses that the vast majority of business they expected to be able to bid for will be unavailable to them because of the US government's Small Business Set Aside Program. So what I am seeking from officers is any confirmation of that or any awareness of this problem that seems to have emerged post the signing of that agreement. I wonder whether or not you have received any complaints from Australian small businesses that have now confronted the issue, following their efforts to enter the US market?				
BI 05/42	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Mr Lowndes—I am not familiar with the particular report so I think we will have to take that on notice. Senator LUNDY—Can you confirm whether the claim by the government during the debate or discussion about the US Free Trade Agreement was that Australian companies would not be precluded as a result of that legislation? Mr Lowndes—We will have to take that on notice. Senator LUNDY—If you could take that on notice.	E104	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR33
BI 05/43	Lundy	DITR	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—Minister, before I leave this subject, can I ask whether you have received any complaints or concerns about what these small businesses are saying, that they were effectively misled as to the impact of that particular procurement element of the US Free Trade Agreement. They thought they were going to get access to that part of the US market and now will not. Senator Minchin—I have not. But that is not to say that the Minister for Small Business and Tourism has not. I am just not aware of it myself. Senator LUNDY—I guess it is a question to take on notice for	E104	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR34

BI 05/44	Lundy	IP Australia	30/5/05	not only the small business minister but also the industry minister, given such a proportion of Australia's export prospects in this regard are actually small businesses trying to do business in the US. Quite a substantial economic benefit was posted against the fact that Australian small businesses would get access to markets like the US procurement market. Senator LUNDY—I do not know whether you will be able to answer this, but is it anticipated that in next year's portfolio budget statements there will be a line item valuing intellectual property assets? Mr Pereira—The Department of Finance and Administration has asked agencies to delineate changes in their expected budgets coming out of the changed accounting standards. IP Australia is not anticipating any changes at this point. Because we are in the early stages of implementation of the international standards, it is hard to say what those changes will be until the reporting arrangements are looked at. Part of that is being looked at as we speak by the ANAO in their audits of opening balance sheets for agencies. So we will know more, but there is nothing, to my knowledge, in IP Australia that has been identified. Senator LUNDY—Could you take on notice to provide to the committee details of any substantive developments in this area, even in establishing policy or the issuing of the guidelines. Mr Pereira—Yes.	E106	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR35
BI 05/45	Lundy	IP Australia	30/5/05	Senator LUNDY—What is the IP special account for? Mr Pereira—The IP Australia special account operates under a section 20 determination against the FMA Act. The finance minister has made a determination on the standing appropriation which the special account represents. We can deposit moneys to and withdraw moneys from that account for any purpose incidental to the oversight of the administration of IP rights in Australia. I do not have the actual wording of the section 20 determination, but I could make it available to you.	E107	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR36
BI 05/46	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN —I take it that criteria for the processing of	E2	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR37

BI 05/47	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	applications have not been determined? Mr Peel—There has been a discussion paper produced for distribution to industry and consultations which will commence on 29 and 30 June. From those consultations we will finalise with the Australian Greenhouse Office the criteria for the program. Senator O'BRIEN—Can the committee have a copy of the discussion paper? Mr Peel—Yes. Senator O'BRIEN—They are interdepartmental working groups are they? Mr Hartwell—No, the implementation group is actually led by industry. It is chaired by John Dow who is the former managing director of Newmont Australia. Senator O'BRIEN—Could you supply on notice the memberships of those four groups? Mr Hartwell—We certainly can.	E4	Answered at hearing (see E22)		
BI 05/48	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—You talked about budgetary initiatives, given that the government has increased the value of the exploration deductions in designated frontier areas from 100 per cent to 150 per cent when determining liability for the petroleum resource rent tax. I would like to get a response to claims by the Santos Chairman, Stephen Gerlach, who said: ... through market and financial incentives, Indonesia is focused on strengthening its domestic energy supplies—disappointingly, it is something that Australia appears unwilling to do. Does that not imply that the government's policy initiative in this area does not have the support of industry and is therefore not likely to work? Mr Hartwell—No, I do not think you could make that judgment. The recent initiatives in relation to the petroleum resource rent tax which were contained in the budget received strong approval from industry, including from the industry association, but also received commendation from a number of companies within the petroleum area. We can table letters from, say, the Managing Director of Woodside supporting what the government has done	E4-5	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR38

BI 05/49	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	in that area. Senator O'BRIEN—I will take you up on that offer, if you could table that correspondence. Senator O'BRIEN—...Mr Paterson later responded to this question, saying that extracting the treatment of one element of a production excise and royalty regime from the treatment under a PRRT regime is not something that could be done easily. I am told that the calculation can easily be made, although it would need to be appropriately qualified. For example, can you provide the production figures for condensate produced in the North West Shelf in association with natural gas in the last two financial years? Mr Hartwell—Yes, I think we could do that. We do not have those figures with us at this point in time, but that could be done, yes. Senator O'BRIEN—Could the department then not provide a range of estimates of excise payable by treating the condensate as if it had been old, new or intermediate oil? Mr Hartwell—We can do those comparisons.	E5	19/9/05	19/9/05	IIR91 and IIR92
BI 05/50	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Could the department provide the range of estimates, including appropriate qualifications on how they were determined? Mr Hartwell—Indeed, we can do that.	E5	19/9/05	19/9/05	IIR91
BI 05/51	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Mr Hartwell, I think you advised the committee in February that crude oil excise changes in 2001 had resulted in forgone revenue of \$140 million between July 2001 in February 2004. Can you bring that figure up to date for the value of forgone revenue between February 2004 and the current point in time? Mr Hartwell—We can certainly bring it up to date. We do not have that figure in front of us at this point in time, but certainly we can update that figure for you.	E5	19/9/05	19/9/05	IIR93
BI 05/52	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—As one would expect. As you were not able to say with certainty whether the contrary view had been put,	E6	15/8/05	17/8/05	IIR39

					could you check and let the committee know—that is, if the position is different. Mr Hartwell —We can do that.				
BI 05/53	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05		Senator O'BRIEN —Is there a forecast of exploration expenditure in the areas released as they are released? Mr Hartwell —I would need to go back and have a look at the individual bids. These are work program bids, but we can provide specific figures under each of those three bids, but we can provide that for you—although I would take advice on that because of the nature of the bidding system. There is a competitive bidding system so in aggregate we may be able to do that. I just need to take advice.	E7	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR40
BI 05/54	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05		Senator O'BRIEN —So there is actually still over \$200,000 in each of those two years to be accounted for. Where would that money go? Mr Hartwell —As Ms Constable has indicated, there is a salary attached from the division in terms of administering the program. There are some other costs outside what is paid to the consultant for running these workshops. They are in very remote areas. Sometimes we need to fund some of the traditional owners and Indigenous groups that attend the workshops. We can certainly provide you with the details of how that money was spent.	E10	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR41
BI 05/55	Campbell	DITR	31/5/05		Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —On page 40 of the PBS there is a line item entitled 'Syntroleum depreciation'. Can you explain to us what that refers to? Mr Hartwell —It is, as I mentioned, an asset on our books, but it is also a depreciable asset. It is being depreciated at the rate of \$1 million per year. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —So we will eventually get rid of it off the books? Mr Hartwell —That is a possibility, yes. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL —One way or another, this \$15 million is going to disappear. Mr Hartwell —We need to be hopeful that the licence will be	E13	Answered at hearing (see E13 and E14)		

BI 05/56	Campbell	DITR	31/5/05	able to be commercialised. I cannot guarantee that outcome, but certainly active efforts are taking place to achieve that outcome. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—How did you pick the figure of \$1 million for depreciation? Mr Hartwell—I would need to take advice on that. The licence arrangements apply out to 2015 and arithmetic would suggest that, if you depreciate it at \$1 million a year, by that time it will be down to zero. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Who would have conducted the discussions with SPP at the time. Can you remember that? Mr Hartwell—I would have to take that on notice. I can only say that we had many discussions with SPP because of the arrangements that were in place to assist the SPP project. I cannot specifically answer that. All I can say is that there would have been a number of discussions between officers of the department and SPP.	E15	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR42
BI 05/57	Campbell	DITR	31/5/05	Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Parliament was advised on 29 March 2004 by Senator Minchin that the Commonwealth government had turned down a request initially from South Pacific Petroleum and subsequently from SPP's receiver Ernst and Young and then Sandefer Capital Partners to extend the effective excise exemption available to petroleum products from shale oil. Can you detail the reasons why the Commonwealth government refused the request? Mr Payne—I could take that on notice. I do not have a list of those reasons with me at the moment. As you said, it was a public announcement by the government not to extend that assistance. Senator GEORGE CAMPBELL—Can you also take on notice to provide us with copies of any documents relating to the request, including correspondence to and from the parties making the request and advice from other departments? Mr Hartwell—We can do that.	E15	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR43
BI 05/58	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Could we get a profile of the payments that have been made under this program, and those that are expected	E16	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR44

BI 05/59	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	to be made according to the profiles set out on page 28 of the PBS? Mr Peel—For each of the grants? Senator O'BRIEN—Yes. Mr Peel—Yes, we can do that. Senator O'BRIEN—There are three eligible companies at the moment. Are you expecting that to increase to 10 over the life of the grant scheme? Mr Sexton—We are. There is a third company that has received funding under the Biofuels Capital Grants Program for the production of ethanol and we would expect that at some time in the future it will also become a recipient under this program. Senator O'BRIEN—Which company is that? Mr Sexton—Lemon Tree. Senator O'BRIEN—When would you expect they would come on stream? Mr Sexton—I do not have the details of their contract to understand when their first commercial sale is to occur. We could get that for you. Senator O'BRIEN—Could you get that with the other figures that we asked for—the milestones? Mr Sexton—Yes.	E17	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR45
BI 05/60	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—In table 2.4(A) on page 30 of the PBS, you seem to have reprioritised \$52 million. Most of that is appearing in the out years in some additional moneys. Is that all that has happened there. Mr Hartwell—That is just an adjustment in the forward estimates that really takes into account any revised production forecasts we might have but also a changed estimate in relation to oil prices going forward. Senator O'BRIEN—Can we get a table setting out the way that those figures have been calculated—the variables that have been built into that. Mr Hartwell—We can do that for you. We work with Treasury	E20	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR46

BI 05/61	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	on that estimate and forecast and we essentially use their estimate of oil prices going forward. Senator O'BRIEN —I omitted to put one question on notice. I understand I need to put it on notice because the figures are not available. I would like the figures for the current financial year to date for the strategic investment incentive ethanol production grants for the current year—quantity and amount of money—by company.	E20	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR47
BI 05/62	O'Brien	DITR	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN —So Industry, Tourism and Resources has not done any. Can you tell me—and you may want to answer this on notice—what work ABARE is doing for this department and what financial arrangements are in place between ABARE and this department for the performance of that work. Mr Ryan —For all of our work we have done with ABARE? Senator O'BRIEN —Yes. Just break it down by project and cost. Mr Ryan —I can tell you in the broad that we have an agreement with ABARE for a certain amount of what we would call data collection work and research work. We can break it down into those two components. Senator O'BRIEN —That would be good.	E22	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR48
BI 05/63	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN —Does Tourism Australia use contractors? Mr Morrison —Yes, we do. Senator O'BRIEN —How many? Mr Morrison —I am happy to provide you with that on notice. Mr Hopwood —Perhaps I can explain. We use them for project work. These are not contractors within our payroll system; they are contracted through a contract for specific work. They vary according to what projects are on hand at some point in time. They could be there for several days or several months. Mr Morrison —We could provide you with a breakdown. Senator O'BRIEN —If you could, I would appreciate that. How many employees of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background are on the payroll of Tourism Australia? Mr Morrison —Again, we would have to take that on notice.	E23	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR49 ITR50
						05/63A - 10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR121

BI 05/64	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Can you give me that information, and also information on the number of people with disabilities and the male-female staff mix? Mr Morrison—Yes. Senator O'BRIEN—Are all staff employed under the Tourism Australia Act or were some able to stay under the Public Service Act? Mr Hopwood—My understanding, but I will have to check this, is that they are all under the TA Act. Senator O'BRIEN—So what is the budget over the next three years for revising the Brand Australia campaign? Mr Morrison—The budget as yet has not been confirmed by the board. Senator O'BRIEN—When will that happen? Mr Morrison—I expect the board will consider that later this week. Senator O'BRIEN—Can we be supplied with the details of what is budgeted to supplement the Brand Australia campaign in terms of production of images or advertisements? Mr Morrison—I would be happy to take that up at these future sessions. Senator O'BRIEN—Sorry, I am not sure what you mean. Mr Morrison—I will be back before the committee— Senator O'BRIEN—In November; but, if you are going to make a decision in the next week or so, as the period for answering questions on notice runs for six weeks I would have thought that, if there is a change, if there is a decision made in the next week or so, you could advise us accordingly. Mr Morrison—Fine.	E24	15/8/05	10/10/05	10/10/05	IIR122
BI 05/65	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—So what is the budget over the next three years for revising the Brand Australia campaign? Mr Morrison—The budget as yet has not been confirmed by the board. Senator O'BRIEN—When will that happen? Mr Morrison—I expect the board will consider that later this week. Senator O'BRIEN—Can we be supplied with the details of what is budgeted to supplement the Brand Australia campaign in terms of production of images or advertisements? Mr Morrison—I would be happy to take that up at these future sessions. Senator O'BRIEN—Sorry, I am not sure what you mean. Mr Morrison—I will be back before the committee— Senator O'BRIEN—In November; but, if you are going to make a decision in the next week or so, as the period for answering questions on notice runs for six weeks I would have thought that, if there is a change, if there is a decision made in the next week or so, you could advise us accordingly. Mr Morrison—Fine.	E24-25	10/10/05	10/10/05	10/10/05	IIR123
BI 05/66	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Is it possible to get a breakdown of the cost of the accounts that were in place, and have now been replaced by the new single entity, and the full cost or estimated projected cost of the combined account? I am trying to get a like-for-like comparison.	E25-26	10/10/05	10/10/05	10/10/05	IIR124

BI 05/67	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Mr Morrison—We can provide that to you obviously after we have finished the process we are going through. I am happy to do that. Senator O'BRIEN—You did not answer my question. What do you say, Mr Morrison, about the criticisms that have been levelled at Tourism Australia about the process followed for the advertising account? I am particularly referring to the article in the Australian on 31 March. Mr Morrison—I would refer you and the committee to the response made to that article by our chairman, Tim Fischer, who wrote a letter to the editor following that. I am happy to table it. The process we have followed for this tender has been rigorous and comprehensive. It is not uncommon in the advertising industry for those who have been unsuccessful in that process to raise questions about it.	E27	28/9/05	30/9/05	ITR98
BI 05/68	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Can the committee be supplied with a list of the campaigns that are currently running, domestically and internationally? Mr Morrison—Certainly. Senator O'BRIEN—With a cost breakdown? Mr Morrison—Yes. Just to be clear, you mean in May, June—we run many campaigns over lots of different periods of time and obviously a lot of them will be itemised in annual reports that are prepared. Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps the campaigns that are running or expected to run in the last quarter of the current financial year.	E29	8/06/06	8/06/06	
BI 05/69	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—How much in total is involved there? Is that \$300,000 for all of those projects, or \$300,000 for support of the first project, the <i>Outback Cafe</i> television series? I am not sure what that means. Mr Morrison—Out of a total budget of just over \$2 million for development of the niche program, Tourism Australia has identified a number of key segments we are working on. The top tier of those is Indigenous. What is noted there is some work that	E32	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR125

BI 05/70	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	is being done specifically on those projects. But beyond that we hope to do quite a bit more under the general umbrella of our niche program, which, as I said, has a budget up to \$2 million. Senator O'BRIEN—You hope to do more. Those items there on page 191, in the first paragraph under 4.3, account for \$300,000 of expenditure, do they? Mr Morrison—I would have to confirm it, but the wording indicates that it comprises all of those programs, yes. Senator O'BRIEN—Perhaps you can give us a breakdown on notice. Mr Morrison—Sure. Senator O'BRIEN—Are you able to give us details of the cost to the department of its participation in WTO matters and events? Ms Murphy—Broadly, I certainly can. If you count the cost of our membership of the WTO plus our general activities relating to the WTO, we are looking at a cost so far this year in the order of \$300,000. Senator O'BRIEN—Is that including travel? Ms Murphy—That includes some travel, yes. Senator O'BRIEN—Can we get a breakdown of the cost of travel? Ms Murphy—Yes.	E33	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR52
BI 05/71	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Again at the estimates last year, we were told that the board of Tourism Australia could establish advisory panels to advise Tourism Australia on key issues. Have any such advisory panels been established? Mr Morrison—Yes. Four have been established—one looking at international, one looking at research, one looking at domestic and another one looking at business events. Senator O'BRIEN—Can you, on notice, supply us with details of the membership of the advisory panels? Mr Morrison—Certainly. Senator O'BRIEN—Or refer us to a media release? Mr Morrison—I am happy to provide it to you.	E34-35	28/9/05	30/9/05	ITR99

BI 05/72	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Are there any other advisory councils or groups to provide advice to the government or the department on tourism issues? Senator O'BRIEN—Have you provided information on the funding devoted to supporting those groups? Ms Murphy—No, I do not recall that we did that. Senator O'BRIEN—That would come out of the departmental budget as well, would it? Ms Murphy—Yes, it does. Senator O'BRIEN—Can we get an estimate of the cost of each of them?	E35-36	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR53
BI 05/73	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—What is the salary range for the three positions we are talking about? Mr Morrison—I will come back to you on that on notice.	E36	28/9/05	30/9/05	ITR100
BI 05/74	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—When were you appointed as a director? Mr Morrison—It was April, but I would have to confirm that. I am happy to confirm the exact time with you.	E37	28/9/05	30/9/05	ITR101
BI 05/75	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Does the Australian government provide any funding or in kind support to ATEC? Ms Murphy—No, the Australian government does not provide operational support to ATEC. Mr Morrison—Can I just clarify? Senator O'BRIEN—Australian Tourism Export Council. Mr Morrison—I know who they are, but when you say from time to time Tourism Australia will work with ATEC on various events and activities and projects as part of industry consultation, the sums of those I would have to check, but it is a fairly common part of our practice to work closely with industry bodies	E37	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR126
BI 05/76	O'Brien	Tourism Australia	31/5/05	Senator O'BRIEN—Can you tell me what support Tourism Australia has provided to the tourism industry in the Indian Ocean territories? Mr Morrison—I will have to take that one on notice. I am not aware of any major project which involves Tourism Australia and	E39	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR54

						that organisation at all. We are active in PATA, the Pacific Asia Travel Association.					
WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE											
BI 05/77A	Mason	DITR	May 05	1) For each of the last four financial or calendar years for which this information is available: a) what was the average number of sick leave days taken per full-time equivalent employee; b) what was the average number of days of unscheduled absence (encompassing all types of leave) taken per full-time equivalent employee.	N/A	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR94 Tourism Australia's response ITR112		
BI 05/77B	Mason	DITR	May 05	2) Does the department collect, collate and analyse data about unscheduled absence and/or sick leave, for example, which days of the week that employees are away, reasons for absence, dates of absence, employee's age, gender, length of service and work unit location?	N/A	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR95 Tourism Australia's response ITR113		
BI 05/77C	Mason	DITR	May 05	3) Does the department record the number and/or percentage of working days lost due to unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in the Annual Report?	N/A	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR96 Tourism Australia's response ITR114		
BI 05/77D	Mason	DITR	May 05	4) Does the department record the cost of unscheduled absence and/or sick leave in annual financial statements?	N/A	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	19/9/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR97 Tourism Australia's response ITR115		
BI 05/78A	Campbell	DITR	May 05	1. (a) What is the outcome of the DDA access to premises standard deliberations by the Australian Building Codes Board (ABCB) meeting of Thursday, 26 May?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	17/8/2005	ITR61		

BI 05/78B	Campbell	DITR	May 05	(b) Was the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) access to premises standard to be recommended to federal Attorney-General Ruddock and Industry, Tourism and Resources Minister Macfarlane, finalised by the ABCB (Australian Building Codes Board); and, if so, when will the Ministers receive the recommendation?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR62
BI 05/78C	Campbell	DITR	May 05	2. Specifically (a) what standard, for each class of building and each building element considered for inclusion in the standard, did the Board - ABCB-, at its meeting 26 May, decide to recommend to the two relevant federal Ministers (Attorney-General Ruddock and ITR Minister Macfarlane)? and b) how does the finalised DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) Access to premises draft standard recommended to the federal Ministers by the ABCB differ from the draft standard which was released for consultation at the beginning of 2004?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR63
BI 05/78D	Campbell	DITR	May 05	3. Does the standard recommended to the federal Ministers by the ABCB provide equality of access for everyone to public and commercial buildings including workplaces (such as offices), in keeping with the objectives of the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) and the government's workforce participation policies for people with disabilities and older people? 4. (a) Will State and Territory building and planning Ministers be consulted about: i) the ABCB recommendation for the DDA (Disability	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR64

					Discrimination Act) Access to premises standard and, if so, when? ii) the Ministers' decision as to the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) Access to premises standard to be presented to Parliament and, if so, when?				
BI 05/78E	Campbell	DITR	May 05		(b) When will the government present the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) Access to premises standard to Parliament?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR65
BI 05/79A	Campbell	DITR	May 05		5. Will the Ministers ensure that equality of access for all is the overriding concern in the DDA (Disability Discrimination Act) Access to premises standard which will be presented to Parliament? COMET 1. Can you provide us with a breakdown of COMET grants by industry and State for the financial year 2004-05?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR66
BI 05/79B	Campbell	DITR	May 05		2. As a result of the recent review COMET grants are now capped at \$120,000. Why was the limit raised?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR67
BI 05/79C	Campbell	DITR	May 05		3. What happens if a client and a Business Advisor fail to agree of an appropriate success fee? Is any mediation from the Department available? Who has the final say?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR68
BI 05/79D	Campbell	DITR	May 05		4. Is there any appeals or grievances processes available for unsuccessful applicants?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR69
BI 05/79E	Campbell	DITR	May 05		5. How many customers or applicants have referred their case to the Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman since COMET	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR70

					began?					
BI 05/79F	Campbell	DITR	May 05		6. According to the latest COMET Customer Information Guide one of the merit criteria used to judge suitability for the scheme is 'Actual or potential management capability to commercialise the innovation with appropriate COMET support'. One of the indicators attached to this criterion is 'management flexibility to adapt as needed'. Just exactly what does this indicator mean?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005		ITR71
BI 05/79G	Campbell	DITR	May 05		7. Are there any human resources requirements linked to attaining COMET funding? For example, do staff have to be employed on AWAs for a company to be eligible for funding?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005		ITR72
BI 05/79H	Campbell	DITR	May 05		8. Under the assessment guidelines, customers should receive a letter within 14 days of the Program Delegate's decision. Is this happening?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005		ITR73
BI 05/80A	Campbell	IP Australia	May 05		Questions on Notice for IP Australia 1. Having read the contract entered into between Syntroleum and the Commonwealth what is IP Australia's understanding of the Commonwealth's rights with regards to the intellectual property contained in Syntroleum's GTL technology; Front End Engineering Design (FEED); the Syntroleum process and all other Syntroleum technologies covered under the agreement?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005		ITR55
BI 05/80B	Campbell	IP Australia	May 05		2. Can IP Australia tell the Committee what remedies might be available to the Commonwealth in regards to the intellectual property covered by the agreement if Syntroleum fails to meet its contractual obligations?		15/8/2005	17/8/2005		ITR56
BI 05/80C	Campbell	IP Australia	May 05		3. Can IP Australia tell the Committee what can be done to release		15/8/2005	17/8/2005		ITR57

					the Commonwealth from the requirement that it must obtain Syntroleum's permission to use the license as it sees fit?					
BI 05/81A	Campbell	DITR	May 05		Question on Notice to Resources Department 1. What was the name of the entity that entered into the Sweetwater gas to liquids agreement with the Commonwealth? Was it a subsidiary of Syntroleum called 'Syntroleum Sweetwater'? Is that entity still solvent?	N/A	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR58	
BI 05/81B	Campbell	DITR	May 05		2. How was this entity structured on the day the agreement was signed? Has this entity's structure changed at any time since the agreement was signed?	N/A	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR59	
BI 05/81C	Campbell	DITR	May 05		3. If that entity isn't now solvent how does this affect the agreement made by the Commonwealth? Furthermore if that entity is insolvent, what has the Commonwealth done with respect to negotiating a settlement with the administrators to free up its capacity to utilise the license?	N/A	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR60	
BI 05/82	Harradine	DITR	May 05		Are you aware that the Australian Stem Cell Centre – a company the Government has granted over \$100 million – is now lobbying for changes to the <i>Prohibition of Human Cloning Act</i> so that it can clone human embryos for research? How will the Government ensure that no government funds are used in the ASCC lobbying effort? Please provide proof to the Committee that funds for lobbying are separately budgeted and that government funding is quarantined.	N/A	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR75	
BI 05/83A	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		Performance Pay Is performance pay available under your department/agencies certified agreement? If not how many staff in your Department/Agency are eligible for	N/A	15/8/05	17/8/05	ITR76	Tourism Australia's response

				performance based pay?			28/9/05	30/9/05	ITR103
BI 05/83B	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05	Please provide a breakdown of performance pay awarded for this financial year to date including the following details: How many staff have received performance pay? What levels are those staff at? What gender, a breakdown please? How much has each staff member received? When did they receive it? What was the rationale for the awarding of performance pay in each instance? Did the Department/Agency head receive performance pay? How much? When? On what grounds? Efficiency Dividend What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?	N/A	15/8/05 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	17/8/05 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR77 Tourism Australia's response ITR104	
BI 05/84A	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05	Efficiency Dividend What financial impact will the increased efficiency dividend have on your Department/agency this financial year and in the out years?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	17/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR78 Tourism Australia's response ITR105	
BI 05/84B	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05	The increase in the efficiency dividend was announced in last year's elections, what plans have you made to meet it?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	17/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR79 Tourism Australia's response ITR106	
BI 05/84C	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05	What will this mean for staff numbers?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response	17/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response	ITR80 Tourism Australia's response	

BI 05/84D	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		Will any specific programs be cut? Please specify which ones and the size of the estimated savings?	N/A	28/9/05	30/9/05	ITR107
							15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR81
							Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	Tourism Australia's response ITR108
BI 05/84E	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		Will any core functions be affected by these savings measures?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR82
							Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	Tourism Australia's response ITR109
BI 05/84F	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your graduate recruitment plans?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR83
							Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	Tourism Australia's response ITR110
BI 05/84G	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		How will meeting the efficiency dividend affect your ability to retain experienced staff?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR84
							Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	Tourism Australia's response ITR111
BI 05/85A	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		AWAs How many staff are covered by AWAs in your Agency/Department?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR85
							Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	Tourism Australia's response ITR116
BI 05/85B	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		Can you provide a break down of AWA's by gender and by classification?	N/A	15/8/2005	17/8/2005	ITR86
							Tourism	Tourism	Tourism

BI 05/85C	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		Can you tell me how many of the staff on AWA's are paid more than the band for their classification under the certified agreement?		Australia's response 28/9/05	Australia's response 30/9/05	Australia's response ITR117
BI 05/85D	Carr	Department and agencies	May 05		Why were these staff not simply promoted to a higher classification?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	17/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR87 Tourism Australia's response ITR118
BI 05/86A	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05		Legal service expenditure 1. What amount did the Department/agency spend during the financial year 2004/2005 on outsourced legal practitioners (including private firms, individuals, the Australian Government Solicitor, and any others)?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	17/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 30/9/05	ITR88 Tourism Australia's response ITR119
BI 05/86B	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05		2. What was the budgeted amount for outsourced legal practitioners in 2004/2005?	N/A	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR129
BI 05/86C	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05		3. What amount did the Department/agency spend on internal legal services? (Provide an estimate if exact amount is unavailable.)		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR130
BI 05/86D	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05		4. Does the Department/agency have an in-house legal section? If so, what was the 2004/2005 actual cost of this section? What was the budgeted amount for this section in 2004/2005? What is the budget amount for this section in 2005/2006?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR131
							10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR132

BI 05/86E	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	5. What is the total projected expenditure on legal services for 2005/2006 for the Department/agency?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR133
BI 05/86F	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	6. Which organisations or individuals were contracted to provide legal services to the Department/agency in 2004/2005?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR134
BI 05/86G	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	7. In each instance, how much was each organisation or individual paid for these services?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR134
BI 05/86H	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	8. Does the Department/agency use an open tendering or select tendering process (as described in the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines, p 42) when procuring legal services?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR135
BI 05/86I	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	9. If a select tendering process is used: (a) which method of select tendering is used and (b) which firms or individuals are currently eligible to tender for legal services?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR136
BI 05/86J	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	10. If a multi-use list is used: (a) which firms or individuals are currently on that list and (b) when was the list last opened for applications?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR137
BI 05/86K	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	11. In 2004/2005 did the Department/agency obtain any legal services using a direct sourcing procurement process? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work involved and the cost?		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR138
BI 05/86L	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	12. In 2004/2005 did the Department/agency procure any legal services under the thresholds required for 'covered procurements' (within the meaning of 8.6 of the Commonwealth Procurement Guidelines)? If so, provide details including the name of the provider, the work		10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR139

				involved and the cost.					
BI 05/86M	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	12. In 2004/05 did the Department/agency contract any legal firms to provide services other than legal services (such as consulting, conduct of policy reviews etc)? If so, provide details including the name of the firm, the project involved and the cost of the contract.		10/10/05	10/10/05	10/10/05	ITR140
BI 05/87	Ludwig	Department and agencies	May 05	A follow-up to a question Senator Ludwig asked in December ... Regarding the employees that your department or agency has identified as having: a) fluency b) accredited translator c) accredited interpreter 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?	N/A	15/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	17/8/2005 Tourism Australia's response 28/9/05	ITR74 Tourism Australia's response ITR102	