

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2007-08
28 May 2007

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: R&D Tax Concession - evaluation

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard 28/05/07, Page E43)

QUESTION No. B1-99

Ms Berman—That is correct. We talked about the evaluation of the new elements—the premium and the offset. That evaluation has been finalised and, at this very moment, we are seeking final steering committee sign-off. The report is being completed. When that sign-off is complete, which was sought last week, we will then be forwarding it to our minister.

Senator CARR—Are you able to indicate what the evaluation considered?

Ms Berman—We can certainly provide you with the terms of reference. In summary, we looked at all the data leading up to 2001, when the new elements commenced, and then looked at the years following the introduction, and analysed the changes in expenditure, the number of customers and sought to identify the impact of the two changed elements on expenditure by business.

Senator CARR—Are you able to outline what the main findings of the committee were?

Ms Berman—I do not believe I am in a position to do that until the minister sees the report.

Senator CARR—Is it the intention to release that report once the minister has seen it?

Ms Berman—That is the minister's decision.

Senator CARR—I take it that you will appreciate this is a formal request to have a copy of that report?

Ms Berman—Certainly.

ANSWER

The evaluation has been finalised and is available at: www.industry.gov.au/randdtax.