

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education Portfolio
Budget Estimates Hearing 2012-13
28 and 29 May 2012

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, INNOVATION, SCIENCE, RESEARCH AND TERTIARY EDUCATION

TOPIC: Visits to small businesses

REFERENCE: Written Question - Senator Ryan

QUESTION No.: BI-93

1. How many small businesses has the Minister visited since taking on the job in March this year?
 - a) Please provide a list of these businesses and their location.
 - b) How do you determine which small businesses you visit?
 - c) Please provide a list of small business industry reports.
 - d) What involvement will the Minister for Small Business have in monitoring the impact of the carbon tax on small business?
 - e) Will any departmental resources be used for this?

ANSWER

1. The Minister has visited many small businesses, and or met with many small business owners, since March 2012. To search diaries to determine the exact number would represent an inappropriate diversion of resources.
 - a) Refer to answer given above.
 - b) Businesses visited tend to reflect the broad nature of the small business sector.
 - c) The department produces one small business industry report. *Key Statistics – Australian Small Business* was launched by Senator Sherry in October 2011, available at <http://www.innovation.gov.au/SmallBusiness/KeyFacts/Pages/default.aspx> .
 - d) The Minister for Small Business regularly receives advice on small business policy and associated matters. This includes advice on the sustainable development and growth of the Australian small business sector.
 - e) The department regularly provides advice on small business policy and implementation matters.