

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: Book Industry Strategy

REFERENCE: Question on Notice (Hansard, 29 May 2012, page 45)

QUESTION No.: B1-85

Senator COLBECK: I will move to the Book Industry Strategy Group. Can you give me an update on the government's response to the final report of the Book Industry Strategy Group?

Mr Lawrence: The response is still being considered by ministers. We are expecting it to be released mid-year.

Senator COLBECK: The response was due in early 2012 and it is with the minister—or ministers?

Mr Lawrence: That is correct.

Senator COLBECK: Can you tell me how long it has been with the ministers? When was the response finalised by the department?

Mr Lawson: Minister, we might have to take that on notice. It would not have escaped your notice that we have had a few changes of ministers, so there may have been some process involved in that in determining which minister, when it has gone to Minister Combet for his consideration.

Senator COLBECK: So you do not know when the report was finalised and transmitted to the minister?

Mr Lawrence: With machinery of government changes, we would have to check which minister it has gone to and subsequently when it was resubmitted to the new minister.

Senator COLBECK: Okay. Was it sent to the previous minister before the reshuffle?

Mr Lawrence: I would have to take that on notice.

Senator COLBECK: You could take on notice whether it was submitted to the previous minister before the reshuffle and then what date it was sent to whichever minister it is with now.

Mr Lawrence: Okay.

ANSWER

The response was not submitted to the previous Minister before the reshuffle.

The department sent the response to Minister Combet on 3 February 2012. Following consultation with relevant Ministers final clearance was received on 14 June 2012.