

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates Hearing 2008-09
22-23 October 2008

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INNOVATION, INDUSTRY, SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

TOPIC: Grants

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Abetz

QUESTION No.: SI-26

In relation to DIISR's various grant programs, what is the usual percentage used on administration?

ANSWER

It is neither possible nor appropriate to identify a 'usual percentage' for the cost of administering grant programs. The cost of administering any given program will depend on a range of factors which include:

- the customer base: who may access the program, their demographic characteristics, how to communicate with and reach them;
- design and implementation costs: industry consultation, systems development, documentation development;
- the complexity of the program and/or sector(s) being supported: applications for technically complex projects may require technical expertise for their assessment in the form of a panel or committee;
- the nature of assistance under the program: assistance for different activities may require different grant matching, the program may provide advisory services in addition to grant support;
- the volume of activity under the program: the number of enquiries, the number of applications, the approval rate and number of approvals, the regularity and number of grant payments;
- audit and compliance requirements; and
- program evaluation requirements.