

Senate Standing Committee on Economics
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Innovation, Industry, Science and Research Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2011-2012
19 October 2011

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

TOPIC: BUY AUSTRALIAN AT HOME AND ABROAD

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Colbeck

QUESTION No.: SI-116

In this year's Budget, a total of \$34.4 million was allocated over the forward estimates to the Buy Australia At Home and Abroad program. But members of the Government (including Senator Carr and Minister Ferguson in a media release of 24 August 2011 – <http://minister.innovation.gov.au/Carr/MediaReleases/Pages/BUYAUSTRALIANATHOMEANDABROADJointMRFerguson.aspx> have since been referring to it as a \$50 million program. What accounts for the \$15.6 million difference, and has it been offset against another line item or items in the Budget?

ANSWER

The Media Release issued by Senator Carr and Minister Ferguson on 24 August 2011 refers to the government's investment of "more than \$50 million in supporting Australian industry win opportunities from the resources boom and other large procurements".

This refers to:

- the \$34.4 million Buy Australian at Home and Abroad initiative (announced May 2011); and
- the \$19.1 million Australian Government Procurement Statement (announced July 2009).

Together, these initiatives add up to more than \$50 million (total of \$53.5 million).