**Question 1**

Outcome 1, program 1.2

Topic: Export Market Development Grant Scheme

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**Senator TROOD**—That is a correct understanding of the situation? Okay. Just quickly, and categories might be satisfactory: what categories is the administration usually spent on? I mean categories of expenditure.

**Mr Chesterfield**—About 75 per cent of the expenditure is staffing. Then, obviously, there are things that are related to staffing, like office accommodation. There is a small amount of travel—about $300,000 of the total expenditure—and that is to travel largely to visit claims in Australia and perhaps one overseas trip a year to check out claims overseas.

**Senator TROOD**—They are spread across the agency. Is that right?

**Mr Chesterfield**—No. That is specific to staff that work with me on the EMDG scheme.

**Senator TROOD**—I see. How many staff is that?

**Mr Chesterfield**—I would have to check that precisely, but I think it is around about 60 at the moment.

**Answer**

As at 31 October 2009 EMDG staff numbers were:

* 56.68 full-time equivalent staff (ongoing)
* 10.4 non-ongoing staff (specified task)
* 3 non-ongoing staff (specified term).

**Question 2**

Outcome 1, program 1.1

Topic: Cutler Review of the national innovation system

Hansard, 22Oct09, Page 114

**Senator ABETZ**—I understand Austrade made a submission to the review of the national innovation system. Is that correct?

**Mr Yuile**—I would need to check that.

**Senator ABETZ**—Nobody can help us? It is a fairly discrete and special area, so I am not critical if there is nobody to help in this area.

**Mr Yuile**—I am sorry: I do not recall, Senator. But I can take that on notice.

**Senator ABETZ**—All right. In that case, if we do not have anybody here, I will rattle off a few quick questions. One, did Austrade make a submission to the review of the national innovation system? Dr Terry Cutler reported and that report was entitled *Venturous Australia*. Recommendation 9.1 stated certain matters, which I will not detail at the moment. I understand Austrade put in a response to that recommendation and it related to the competitive innovation grants program. The Austrade response was that Austrade supported recommendation 9.1 of the report on the review of the national innovation system. I was wondering if you could confirm that. Then could you confirm whether Austrade gave reasoning and rationale further and beyond that as to why it supported, if it indeed did, recommendation 9.1 of the report on the review of the national innovation system? Could you confirm whether, in their support of that, they were supportive of the former Commercial Ready program, which was instrumental for many companies to obtain the necessary matching funds so as to secure longer term equity investments? Did Austrade also reference a company called Prima BioMed, which is a company that I think Dr Ian Frazer is involved with and that is responsible for developing a ovarian cancer vaccine? Did it then have to scrap that as a result of the abolition of Commercial Ready at the time? That gives you a flavour. If you could come back to me on notice, given nobody is here—

**Mr Yuile**—Senator, thank you. I am certainly aware of the Cutler review and of the conclusion of the Commercial Ready scheme. I think the recent announcement of a replacement scheme or a scheme relating to innovation—

**Senator ABETZ**—I was going to say hardly a replacement, but I accept that nuancing.

**Mr Yuile**—Sorry, a new program. I was not aware of this line of questioning, so I am apologising that we do not have that very specific detail, but we will follow that up.

**Senator ABETZ**—I accept that and I look forward to the answers. Thank you.

**Answer**

Austrade did not make a submission to the review of the national innovation system.

In regard to the report, *Venturous Australia*, Austrade provided comments on recommendation 9.1 to the Department of Innovation, Industry, Science and Research (DIISR).

Austrade did see advantage in a competitive innovation grants program as reflected in recommendation 9.1 and as established through the new Commercialisation Australia program. Austrade also passed to DIISR case study material based on information provided by certain companies, including Prima Biomed.