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Senate F&PA Committee

Tabled Document

Inquiry: Additional Estimates 18/19

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Witness Name: Senator McAllister

Organisation:

News Articles

AOT Headquarters Officially Opened

The AOT Group's new headquarters in South Melbourne was officially opened yesterday by Federal Treasurer the Hon. Joe Hockey MP in a ceremony at the historic Normanby Road address.

"AOT is one of the great success stories of the Australian tourism industry and I am delighted to have been asked to open their new global headquarters", Mr Hockey said.

"Andrew and Cinzia Burnes have built a highly significant global business from its fledging start in Cairns in 1987 to 14 offices around the world and these new headquarters symbolise the opportunity that beckons for hard working Australian entrepreneurs

"Tourism is a vital component of the Australian economy and an important employer of tens of thousands of Australians so it is crucial the sector continues to grow.

"The Coalition Government is committed to supporting Australian tourism with new policy initiatives to assist the industry to further grow and develop" said the Treasurer.

The ceremony, attended by 160 AOT staff and senior industry leaders, unveiled a new plaque commemorating the official opening of the building at 179 Normanby Road South Melbourne.



L-R: Andrew Burnes, AOT Group CEO, Cinzia Burnes, AOT Group COO and the Hon. Joe Hockey MP, Federal Treasurer

"We are proud to open our new global headquarters in Melbourne, and I thank the Honourable Treasurer for his attendance here today and also his ongoing commitment and support of the Australian tourism industry" said AOT Group CEO, Andrew Burnes.

"When we first looked at this heritage listed building, an old wool storage shed and once the home to a textile merchant and manufacturing company dating back to 1912, it took plenty of vision to see it as a viable workplace for AOT. But after much hard work we are thrilled with the result. We have designed a purpose built fit-out that includes 5 floors of brand new work stations and offices for staff and facilities such as a large scale shared kitchen, fully equipped gym, undercover car park and training rooms".

Established in Cairns in 1987, AOT moved its head office to Melbourne in 1998 and since then had been located in St Kilda Road.

The AOT Group is one of Australasia's leading travel distribution companies, offering a complete range of Australian, New Zealand, South Pacific and global travel products and services to Wholesale, Government, Corporate and Retail customers worldwide.

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