

**Senate Select Committee on COVID-19**

20 August 2020

Spoken Question on Notice from **Senator Hanson-Young** to Austrade

**Question 1**

**Briefing provided to the Tourism Minister regarding COVID-19**  
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Senator HANSON-YOUNG: But can we try and be a bit more specific, because my question was: what briefs have the department given the tourism minister in his job as the tourism minister? You've told me you've given a briefing on the zoos package, so that's one. Is there any other briefing that you have provided to the tourism minister in relation to the tourism industry in the context of COVID?

Mr Beresford: Austrade has been giving multiple briefs on many fronts. Clearly, zoos and aquariums is one. There has been an update on the state of play in tourism, and there have been updates on the stakeholder engagement they've got underway in tourism. I'd be very happy to come back to you. We could take it on notice in terms of the types of briefing we've been giving. We're very happy to share that.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.

**Answer**

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) provides regular briefing to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment, and the Assistant Minister for Regional Tourism, on a range of tourism industry sector and sub-sector issues in the context of COVID-19, through both formal and informal channels.

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**Question 2**

**Briefing provided to the Tourism Minister regarding the effectiveness of JobKeeper**  
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Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Has there been any briefing given to the tourism minister about the effectiveness of JobKeeper in relation to how many workers in the [tourism] industry have received it and how many have missed out?

Mr Beresford: I'll take that on notice.

**Answer**

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade), drawing on a range of industry and government sources, has provided extensive feedback to the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment on the positive difference the Government's JobKeeper package has made to the tourism industry.

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**Question 3**

**Suspension of passenger movement charge or fringe benefits tax for entertainment and travel**

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Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Yes, thank you. Does the department have a response to calls from the sector for suspension of the passenger movement charge or fringe benefits tax for entertainment and travel?

Mr Beresford: We're providing briefings. That's a call for government.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Have you been asked to provide analysis or advice on those specific elements?

Mr Beresford: I'll take that on notice.

Senator HANSON-YOUNG: Thank you.

**Answer**

The Australian Trade and Investment Commission (Austrade) has regularly briefed the Minister for Trade, Tourism and Investment on a range of issues raised by the tourism sector and sub-sector in the context of COVID-19, including the Passenger Movement Charge and taxation. Responsibility for the Passenger Movement Charge rests with the Minister for Home Affairs and responsibility for taxation issues rests with the Treasurer.