

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
2006-07 Additional Budget Estimates Hearing
15 & 16 February 2007

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES

TOPIC: *Tourism MOU Between Australia and China*

REFERENCE: Hansard 16/2/07, Page E42-E43

QUESTION No. AI-41
(Hansard 16/2/07, Page E42-E43)

Senator STEPHENS asked: — Mr Noonan, is it possible for the committee to have the memorandum of understanding that was signed between Australia and China?

Mr Noonan—I could provide a summary of it. The Chinese government has not consented to make the instrument itself available, but I can certainly provide the committee with a description of the main elements of it.

Senator STEPHENS—Is it likely that the Chinese government will agree to releasing it?

Mr Noonan—I am not sure. They said that it was the first of a kind that they had entered into and that they would use it as a template for other MOUs, so there may be a sensitivity there.

Senator STEPHENS—Thank you very much.

ANSWER

In signing the MOU, China and Australia established a number of common goals in relation to the Approved Destination Status (ADS) scheme. These goals are summarised below:

1. To share information that will allow travel under the ADS scheme to continue to grow. In achieving this goal, both parties wish to hold regular meetings and consult with other areas of their respective Governments on improvements to the ADS arrangements of both countries.
2. To cooperate to ensure the efficient and effective administration of the ADS scheme. This cooperation will focus on three key issues: contractual terms between ADS operators in both countries, the honest and ethical behaviour of operators participating in the scheme, and the provision of transparent pricing to tourists.
3. To build a successful and sustainable ADS scheme, so that Chinese visitors travelling to Australia under the scheme are treated fairly and equitably, and have a quality holiday experience. The parties have committed to a review of the ADS arrangements again in three year's time.