

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Additional Budget Senate Estimates

23 February 2011

Question: AR1
Topic: Medical Tourism
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Siewert asked:

1. Has the government been considering fostering medical tourism to provide a boon for the health and tourism sectors?
2. Has any money been set aside for a scoping study? How much?
3. How much does the government estimates this market is worth?

Answer:

1. The Government has conducted a preliminary analysis of the viability of medical tourism in Australia. The Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism has approached the market to conduct a scoping study to assess the current and future demand for Australia as a medical tourism destination; the capacity for Australia's medical tourism supply chain to accommodate this demand; and, the broader costs and benefits associated with Australia's growth as a medical tourism destination, including the costs of managing the risks associated with the sector's development.
2. \$50,000 has been set aside from the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism's budget to undertake Stage 1 of the Scoping Study.
3. The Department has not estimated the total value for the medical tourism market. Developing such an estimate is one of the objectives of the Scoping Study.