

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 2012

15 – 17 February 2012

Question: AET 40-41

Topic: Tourism and Transport Forum

Hansard Page: Written

Senator BUSHBY asked:

40. Approximately a fortnight ago, the Tourism & Transport Forum met with the Prime Minister and asked her government to resume Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) surveys for small tourist accommodation. Why was this reporting stopped in the first place?
41. Since there has now been a break in reporting, the Australian Tourism Export Council has asked the Coalition's Industries For Australia's Future Review that the survey be redesigned before re-launch. This is to ensure it is the best designed and most useful survey that the industry could use to gain an understanding of occupancy rates and trends. What will it cost to redesign and resume?

Answer:

40. The ABS was funded by the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism to produce statistics on smaller accommodation establishments from March quarter 2005 to June quarter 2010. The production of the statistics ceased when the funding ended.
41. The once-off and ongoing costs to redesign and resume the survey are dependent on data requirements identified in any review. The estimated cost to resume the production of the previous quarterly estimates on smaller accommodation establishments is approximately \$1 million per annum. The scope of the previous estimates included:
 - hotels, motels and serviced apartments with five to fourteen rooms;
 - caravan parks with 40 or more powered sites;
 - visitor hostels with 25 or more bed spaces; and
 - holiday flats, units and houses with 15 or more rooms or units.