

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio
Additional Estimates
14 February 2013

Question: AR15
Topic: Tourism Industry
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Ronaldson asked:

12. Indigenous Tourism

With respect to the Program 4 line activity, “*working collaboratively with stakeholders to support the development of sustainable Indigenous tourism businesses*”:

- a. How many Indigenous tourism businesses have been funded by the federal government since 2007?
- b. Does the department consider that the government’s cuts to the ‘Aboriginal Employment Strategy’ will impact the tourism sector?
- c. Does the department consider the supply of Indigenous products and services of sufficient quality to match the demand generated by the latest “Nothing Like Australia” commercials?

Answer:

- a. The Department is not aware how many Indigenous tourism businesses have received funding through the broad range of Commonwealth Government programs since 2007.

In relation to specific tourism programs falling within the responsibilities of this department - as the guidelines for the Australian Tourism Development Program (2004-2009) and the T-QUAL Grants –Tourism Quality Projects Program do not require businesses to specify Indigenous ownership status, it is not possible to provide a breakdown on the number of Indigenous businesses that have received funding under either program. One Indigenous business has received funding through the T-QUAL Strategic Tourism Investment Grants program.

- b. Funding arrangements for the Aboriginal Employment Strategy are not the responsibility of the Resources, Energy and Tourism portfolio.
- c. Tourism Australia indicate that product improvement and delivery through the Indigenous Tourism Champions Program is producing quality to match demand generated by the ‘There’s Nothing Like Australia’ campaign.