

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:

22. Distinguishing FIFO Travel from Leisure Tourism

Can Tourism Research Australia design a primary research model to capture and distinguish “Fly-In Fly-Out” (FIFO) mining travel from leisure tourism? What changes to current systems and processes would be required for this to be achieved?

Answer:

By definition, 'FIFOs' are not tourists and with strict adherence to international standards for collection of tourism statistics their travel would be excluded from the International Visitor Survey (IVS) and National Visitor Survey (NVS). In practice, however 'FIFOs' are a difficult group to identify and screen-out completely. As such, it is likely that at least some travel by FIFOs is captured in the IVS and NVS.

From 2014, Tourism Research Australia is moving to a dual frame methodology for the NVS whereby interviews will be conducted on landline and mobile phones. This will offer greater opportunity to make contact with mobile populations such as 'FIFOs'. Given this, TRA is investigating whether practical and cost-effective methods can be introduced to readily identify FIFOs so they can be enumerated and distinguished from tourists in the NVS.