

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Estimates 2008-09

2 June 2008

Question: **BR-23**
Topic: **No Leave, No Life program**
Proof Hansard Page: **E131**

Senator BIRMINGHAM asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Mr Buckley, can you give me an update on where the No Leave No Life program is at, please?

Mr Buckley—It has been through an internal review and we have talked about the program with our board. We are yet to take any further on that program.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—How much was committed to the program in the last financial year?

Mr Buckley—I might have to take that on notice. It was a relatively small amount.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Was it a trial at that stage?

Mr Buckley—We had already done the major pilot study and we are working with a number of companies around Australia looking at whether that program actually achieved outcomes in terms of additional staff taking leave. We have done some evaluation, but I cannot tell you off the top of my head what the dollar amount would be. It is relatively small at this point.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Certainly, your 2006-07 annual report, insofar as it deals with the program in a dot point, says that 82 per cent of respondents to the survey that you conducted noticed a change to annual leave since their company participated in the program.

Mr Buckley—Yes.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Is it the intention of TA to continue funding the program into the next year?

Mr Buckley—A final decision will need to be made as to where we go. We were still having discussions with some of the employer organisations to see what they might like to take on. This is much bigger than a tourism issue and certainly the employer organisations are now looking at that opportunity.

Senator Sherry—Do you want that other question about the amounts to be taken on notice?

Answer:

No funds were spent on the 'No Leave, No Life' program during 2007/08. Research for the program was conducted in 2005/06, and a pilot program was conducted in 2006/07. An independent consultant reviewed the effectiveness of the pilot program. A national roll-out for the program is proposed in 2008/09.