

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

1 June 2010

Question: BR14
Topic: Program Funding For Other Tourism Deliverables
Proof Hansard Page: E45-E46

Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY-What about the delivery of the TQUAL grants program and other tourism related programs as required?

Ms Madden-Regarding the TQUAL grants program, the minister announced the final grants under this scheme on 15 December, if my memory serves me correctly. There were 70 successful projects with a total value of \$8.283 million. This is a program allocation running until 30 June 2010. We are in the process of rolling out all those projects at the moment and that will take us up to 30 June 2010.

Senator BUSHBY-And as with all of these programs-

Ms Madden-I apologise. It is the 2010-11 financial year, so it is actually up to 30 June 2011. Apologies.

Senator BUSHBY-Okay. As with all of these programs, if you could outline as well the proportion of departmental resources used to support them. What about program support funding for the enhanced national tourism research agenda, informing policy development and industry investment decisions?

Ms Madden-Yes, I can provide that in detail.

Senator BUSHBY-Production and dissemination of tourism forecasts and surveys for inbound domestic and outbound markets?

Ms Madden-Yes, there is a range of work undertaken there, including jointly with Tourism Australia and the Tourism Forecasting Council, so we can provide the detailed breakdown-

Senator BUSHBY-Of the costing of support for that?

Ms Madden-of the costs associated with that, yes, under the program for deliverables.

Senator BUSHBY-Development of policy initiatives to support Indigenous tourism and engagement with relevant partners?

Ms Madden-Yes, likewise.

Senator BUSHBY-The same way. What about engagement with key stakeholders? You do not have any of these figures with you, I presume.

Mr Clarke-Senator, we see that you are tracking down the statement of deliverables in the portfolio budget statement. We are happy to provide you the allocation of the funding and staff resources in the tourism division against each of those deliverables and to identify, where they have separate program funding, the quantum of that. It is not a structure that we use for internal accounting-

Senator BUSHBY-No, I understand that.

Mr Clarke-but we are happy to map the internal structure against this list of deliverables for you.

Senator BUSHBY-That would assist us in understanding how it works.

Mr Clarke-Certainly.

Senator BUSHBY-Also for the current year and the estimates for each of the out years, to the extent that you have them?

Ms Madden-Yes.

Mr Clarke-Certainly.

Answer:

The Department does not allocate internally in a formal budgetary manner how much time is done in kind by its officers for each of the various activities it undertakes. Consistent with broader Australian Public Service practice, the Tourism Division's operating budget is applied flexibly to meet ongoing and emerging priorities, although some activities also have separate program funding.

TQUAL Grants and other tourism related programs

In December 2009, the Minister for Tourism announced projects that were successful in gaining funding under *TQUAL Grants* worth a total of \$8.283 million. These projects are being funded over two years in 2009/10 and 2010/11.

The Industry Programs Section within the Tourism Division is responsible for managing the *TQUAL Grants* program (in collaboration with AusIndustry), as well as a number of regional tourism projects announced by the Government during the 2007 election. As at 1 July 2010, annual Tourism Division staff costs (including overheads) for activities focussed in this area are approximately \$375,000.

Enhanced national tourism research agenda informing policy development and industry investment decisions / Production and dissemination of tourism forecasts and surveys

Tourism Research Australia is responsible for production and dissemination of tourism forecasts and surveys, and plays a key role in supporting the Tourism Research and Development Advisory Board which has been established to oversee the delivery of a national tourism research agenda. The total budget for Tourism Research Australia activities in 2010/11 (including corporate overheads and external funding contributions from state and territory tourism organisations) is approximately \$8.55 million (see response to **BR30**).

The Research and Statistics Section within the Tourism Division also undertakes analysis of tourism and economic data, develops advice in support of policy development and publishes tourism statistics. As at 1 July 2010, annual Tourism Division staff costs for this section (including overheads) are approximately \$390,000.

In addition, the Department will contribute \$700,000 in 2010/11 for the production of the annual Tourism Satellite Account. The funding of \$2.2 million that has been allocated for a range of measures to implement the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy (see response to **BR10**) also includes \$315,500 to fund Tourism Research and Development Advisory Board priorities, including the inaugural *State of the Industry* report which will be released in late 2010.

Development of policy initiatives to support Indigenous tourism and engagement with relevant partners

The Sustainable and Indigenous Section within the Tourism Division is responsible for policy initiatives, and engagement with relevant partners, to support Indigenous tourism development. Key objectives of these activities are to improve the quality of Australia's Indigenous tourism product offering and to maximise the participation of Indigenous Australians in the tourism industry. As at 1 July 2010, annual Tourism Division staff costs (including overheads) for activities focussed in this area are approximately \$250,000, although there are many other staff costs involved with cooperative projects, including in Tourism Australia and other agencies such as the Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations.

Engagement with key stakeholders to ensure that tourism interests are taken into account in broader context of Australian Government policy development

Engagement with other areas of government is a key ongoing activity across each of the Tourism Divisions four branches. The Department does not have direct legislative or regulatory control in areas which impact the tourism sector – these are, in large measure, the responsibility of other Australian, state/territory and local government agencies. This means that the Tourism Division must develop strong working relationships with the responsible government agencies in order to meet its objectives. Staff costs related to this function would be difficult to quantify.

Engagement in multilateral and bilateral forums to influence beneficial outcomes for the Australian tourism industry

The International Section within the Tourism Division is responsible for managing bilateral and multilateral engagement to advocate tourism interests, including through the United Nations World Tourism Organisation, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Tourism Working Group and the OECD Tourism Committee. As at 1 July 2010, annual Tourism Division staff costs (including overheads) for activities focussed in this area are approximately \$400,000.

Engagement in air services negotiations to influence beneficial outcomes for the Australian tourism industry

The Tourism Transport and Infrastructure Section within the Tourism Division is responsible for representing tourism interests in air service agreement negotiations. As at 1 July 2010, annual Tourism Division staff costs for activities focussed in this area are not significant.

Engagement with Tourism Australia on governance and program issues

The Workforce Policy and Incident Response Section within the Tourism Division is responsible for engagement with Tourism Australia on governance and program issues. The Tourism Division advises the Minister on matters relating to the *Tourism Australia Act 2004*, including those concerning corporate governance arrangements and appointment of Board members. Annual Tourism Division staff costs (including overheads) for activities focussed in this area are approximately \$200,000.

Coordination and Management of the National Tourism Incident Response Plan

The Workforce Policy and Incident Response Section within the Tourism Division is responsible for coordination and management of the National Tourism Incident Response Plan. As at 1 July 2010, annual Tourism Division staff costs for activities focussed in this area are approximately \$50,000 but vary significantly, depending on incidents that require response.