

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2004-2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: ALL Outcomes and Outputs
TOPIC: COSTS OF TRANSLATORS AND INTERPRETERS
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

QUESTION No.20-23

Senator Ludwig asked:

20. How much did the department spend engaging language a) translator and b) interpreter level in each of the financial years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?
21. How many times did the department engage an a) translator and b) interpreter in each of the following years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?
22. For each language in which a) a translator and b) an interpreter was engaged, how many engagements occurred in each of the following years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?
23. What was the total cost of those engagements by language for a) translators and b) interpreters in each of the following years i) 2001-02, ii) 2002-03, iii) 2003-04?

ANSWER

Department of Industry, Tourism and Resources

The specific information requested is not readily available. A summary of relevant data extracted from the Department's financial management information system is provided below.

2001-02: Expenditure on translation/interpreter services was approximately \$31,000. This included costs associated with sign language interpretation, and Chinese, Japanese, Brazilian and Russian translation and interpretation services.

2002-03: Expenditure on translation/interpreter services was approximately \$15,500. This included costs associated with the translation of website material, and Russian and Japanese translation and interpretation services.

2003-04: Expenditure on translation/interpreter services was approximately \$95,000. This included costs associated with the translation of website material, and Japanese, Russian, Chinese and Korean translation and interpretation services.

IP Australia

2001-02: Expenditure on translation/interpreter services was \$1,012. Translators/interpreters were engaged on 3 occasions – including 1 engagement for Korean translation/interpreter services (cost \$986). It is not clear from the records what languages the other 2 engagements related to.

2002-03: Expenditure on translation/interpreter services was \$824. Translators/interpreters were engaged on 4 occasions – including 3 engagements for Indonesian translation/interpreter services (cost \$805). It is not clear from the records what language the other engagement related to.

2003-04: Expenditure on translation/interpreter services was \$8,698. Translators/interpreters were engaged on 11 occasions – including 4 engagements for Vietnamese translation/interpreter services (cost \$7,438) and 1 engagement for Indonesian translation/interpreter services (cost \$250). It is not clear from the records what languages the other 6 engagements related to.

Geoscience Australia

Geoscience Australia did not incur any expenditure on translation/interpreter services during the period 2001-02 to 2003-04.

Tourism Australia

This information is not readily available. For marketing campaigns in non-English speaking countries, Tourism Australia occasionally uses the services of translators to supplement the work of Tourism Australia staff. In non-English speaking countries, Tourism Australia staff are employed locally for their language and communication abilities.