

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates 2005-2006, 2 November 2005

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
OUTCOME/OUTPUT: Outcome 1, Output 1.2
TOPIC: MINISTER BAILEY'S PRESS RELEASE ON INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REFORMS
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTION

QUESTION No.SBI-63

Senator Campbell asked:

In a 12 August Press Release from Minister Fran Bailey, she states that,

'The industrial relations reforms will deliver major overall benefits to tourism operators. Flexibility in the workplace will promote job growth and productivity, which can only be seen as a positive for the tourism industry.'

'The proposed reforms provide an opportunity for tourism operators to tailor their workforce to provide a higher quality and more efficient service to tourists.'

- (a) Is the Department aware of these comments?
- (b) Did the Department advise the Minister on the subject of this statement?
- (c) Can the Department comment on the rationale behind this comment?
- (d) Has the Department conducted any studies or done any economic modelling to underpin this comment? (If not), is this the Minister's own view? Is it supported by any work the Department has done?

ANSWER

The Department is aware of these comments. The Department has not conducted any studies or economic modelling work, but has provided policy advice to Minister Bailey on the Australian Government's industrial relations reforms. It would not be appropriate for the Department to disclose the nature of policy advice given to the Minister.