

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Outcome/Agency**        **4**

**DEEWR Question No. EW162\_10**

Senator Mason asked on Monday, 1 June 2009 EEWHR Hansard page 10.

**Question**

*Clarification required on purpose of funding of a range of tourism development related contracts (contract numbers 117371, 177370, 177319, 177320, 177342, 177346, 177355, 177373 and 177374) with specific reference to an \$800 000 contract with Tourism NT.*

Senator Mason asked to know more about a number of projects relating to Indigenous tourism development as each of the projects represented 'a sizable amount of money'. The contracts are for a 'tourism development office project'; Senator Mason asked specifically what the project was for / about.

**Answer**

The contracts are part of the delivery of the Indigenous Employment Program (IEP) in the Northern Territory (NT).

The Funding Agreement No. 177370 with Tourism NT (TNT) is to fund the implementation of two tourism specific business hubs, one in Alice Springs and one in Darwin, for a two year period. Funding was approved through the Emerging Indigenous Entrepreneurs Initiative (EIEI) to a total amount of \$800 000.00, including GST.

TNT will project manage the delivery of tourism specific business hub services for up to 10 Indigenous tourism businesses in the Alice Springs region and up to 10 Indigenous tourism businesses in the Darwin region. TNT has provided scoping evidence through consultation with local stakeholders regarding the need for these hubs and will scope a suitable stakeholder to host the hub services. One Indigenous Tourism Coordinator will be employed within each hub to provide coordination, advice and administrative support to emerging Indigenous tourism operators.

The funding covers the salaries for two Indigenous Tourism Coordinators over a two year period, centralised reservations / tour booking services, marketing, book-keeping and operational expenses to link emerging Indigenous tourism operators into the local tourism market.

Both of the new hubs will have a strong commercial focus. The new hubs will provide:

- Stronger local networks between tourism aspirants and industry organisations;
- Centralised booking service for Indigenous tourism product;

- Coordination, advice, follow-up and linkages to government agencies offering financial assistance to Indigenous industry entrants;
- Core operational functions to 'market ready' Indigenous tourism operators such as special mentoring, administrative assistance and access to relevant training and capacity building programs; and
- Greater Indigenous employment in the tourism industry in Alice and Darwin.