

**Senate Standing Committee on Rural and Regional Affairs and Transport**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Supplementary Estimates October 2006

**Transport and Regional Services**

**Question:** AA 01

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Air Traffic Controller Training – Agreement with China

**Hansard Page:** 122 (30/10/06)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'BRIEN**—How long has the agreement to run?

**Mr Russell**—It has begun. There is a series of courses. I would need to check the details to be sure, but I will get those to you.

**Answer:**

The Agreement is valid until 19 July 2007. There is an option for a further 12 months period beyond this.

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**Transport and Regional Services**

**Question:** AA 02

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Contacts Facilitated by Ambassador

**Hansard Page:** 123 (30/10/06)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'BRIEN**—Yes. Are there any specific contacts that have been facilitated by the Ambassador?

**Mr Russell**—None that I am personally familiar with. I think generally they have been very helpful to us and in particular Austrade.

**Senator O'BRIEN**—Can you take that question on notice and find out?

**Mr Russell**—In terms of the contacts that the Ambassador has made?

**Senator O'BRIEN**—That have been facilitated by the Ambassador.

**Mr Russell**—Yes. I am happy to do that.

**Answer:**

No contacts have been facilitated by the Ambassador.

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**Transport and Regional Services**

**Question:** AA 03

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Contacts Facilitated by Ambassador

**Hansard Page:** 124 (30/10/06)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'BRIEN**—How much has it cost the organisation so far to chase business in China?

**Mr Russell**—I will have to take that on notice. I am happy to do so.

**Answer:**

<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>	<b>1 July 2006 – 31 October 2006</b>
\$746,530	\$678,440	\$88,330

**Note:** Data includes costs related to expenses incurred by in-country consultants on Airservices Australia's behalf, which have also been separately identified in Airservices Australia's response to **AA 04**.

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**Question:** AA 04

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Business with China

**Hansard Page:** 124 (30/10/06)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'BRIEN**—The business gain to date is the \$600,000 to \$650,000 joint venture with RMIT?

**Mr Russell**—Yes. There have been others. Again, I will give you a more complete answer to that issue.

**CHAIR**—If there are spotter fees, will you include that in the cost?

**Mr Russell**—Yes, we will.

**Senator O'BRIEN**—It would be good to get a breakdown of those costs.

**Mr Russell**—I will certainly do that.

**Answer:**

Airservices Australia has not paid any “spotters fees”. Payments have been made to in-country consultants and agents to identify business opportunities, make the appropriate introductions, and assist in securing the opportunities.

<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>	<b>1 July 2006 – 31 October 2006</b>
\$282,300	\$398,850	Nil

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**Question:** AA 05

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** International Business

**Hansard Page:** 124 (30/10/06)

**Senator O'Brien asked:**

**Senator O'BRIEN**—Is it possible to get a breakdown of the costs of this section of the business—salaries, travel, legal costs, etcetera?

**Mr Russell**—I can do that, yes.

**Answer:**

Full reporting of international business expenses under the 'dual till' arrangements commenced in 2004/2005. This arrangement was endorsed by the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission under the Long-Term Pricing Agreement to segregate the costs and funding of non-regulated Other Commercial Activities from regulated core services. Prior to 2004/2005, the international business unit's expenses were not separated from the expenses incurred for the regulated services and therefore are not identifiable.

<b>Cost Category</b>	<b>2004/2005</b>	<b>2005/2006</b>	<b>1/7/06 – 31/10/06</b>
Staff Costs	\$1,155,850	\$941,790	\$228,260
Travel Expenses	\$826,380	\$535,720	\$116,110
Consultants/Agents	\$404,710	\$455,740	\$18,880
Marketing Activities	\$463,020	\$281,290	nil
Legal Fees	\$66,300	nil	nil
Other Expenses	\$120,370	\$106,990	\$13,660
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$3,036,630</b>	<b>\$2,321,530</b>	<b>\$376,910</b>

**Note:** Data includes expenses for China.

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**Question:** AA 06

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Annual Reports

**Hansard Page:** Written Question

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

With regard to each Agencies (and the Department itself) that fall inside the Department's Portfolio, could the Department indicate what date the Agency's 2005-06 Annual Report was tabled before Parliament?

**Answer:**

The Airservices Australia Annual Report was tabled before Parliament on 26 October 2006.

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Transport and Regional Services

**Question:** AA 07

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Annual Reports

**Hansard Page:** Written Question

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

If the Annual Report was not tabled by 31 October 2006, could the Department indicate:

- a. When the Report was tabled, or if it remains un-tabled what date the Report is expected to be tabled by.
- b. Whether the Agency's own legislation provides an alternative timeframe for its Annual Report. If so, could the Department provide:
  - i. A description and reference to the relevant provision and legislation.
  - ii. An explanation of why the Agency cannot meet the general timeframe set out in the *Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's Requirements for Annual Reports*, and so requires an alternative timeframe?
- c. Whether the Agency was granted an extension under section sub-sections 34C(4) - (7) of the Acts *Interpretation Act 1901*? If so, could the Department provide:
  - i. The date for finalizing the report as set out in the extension.
  - ii. The reason given for granting the extension.
  - iii. The date that the Minister tabled in Parliament a statement explaining why an extension was granted.
  - iv. A copy of the Minister's statement.
- d. Where the Agency's legislation doesn't provide for an alternative timeframe (as per **question b**) nor was the Agency granted an extension (as per **question c**) could the Department provide:
  - i. Explanation for why the Annual Report was tabled outside the timeframe set by DPM&C despite there being no provision alternative timeframe set out in the Agency's legislation nor there being any formal extension granted.
  - ii. Details of any other arrangement in place for the tabling of the Agency's Annual Report.

**Answer:**

The Airservices Australia Annual Report was tabled prior to 31 October 2006.

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**Question:** AA 08

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Possible Parliamentary Questions

**Hansard Page:** Written Question

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

With regard to the preparation of Possible Parliament Questions briefs or other such documents intended to brief Ministers on an issue specifically for Question Time, could the Department/Agency provide?

1. The number of such briefs prepared in each of the last three financial years (2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06).
2. The number of staff who are responsible for coordinating such briefs and the salary level they are engaged at.
3. The name of internal unit/team that those staff belong to and a description of its other responsibilities.
4. The total budget associated with the unit/team referred to in response to part 3

**Answer:**

Airservices Australia does not provide Question Time Briefs to the Minister. It provides input to the Australian Department of Transport and Regional Services.



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**Question:** AA 09

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Legal Services Expenditure

**Hansard Page:** Written Question

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

What sum did the Department/Agencies spend during 2005-2006 on external—

- (a) barristers; and
- (b) solicitors (including private firms, the Australian Government Solicitor and any others).

**Answer:**

Airservices Australia's spend for 2005/2006 on external costs were:

- (a) Barristers = \$ 64,907
- (b) Solicitors = \$ 2,908,234
- TOTAL = \$ 2,973,141**

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**Question:** AA 10

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Legal Services Expenditure

**Hansard Page:** Written Question

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

What sum did the Department/Agencies' spend on internal legal services?

**Answer:**

Actual Expenditure for 1 July 2005 to 30 June 2006 was \$ 1,193,809.

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**Transport and Regional Services**

**Question:** AA 11

**Division/Agency:** Airservices Australia

**Topic:** Legal Services Expenditure

**Hansard Page:** Written Question

**Senator Ludwig asked:**

What is the Department's/Agencies' projected expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007.

**Answer:**

The budgeted expenditure on legal services for 2006-2007 is \$2,706,428.