

Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade Legislation Committee
 QUESTIONS ON NOTICE— ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 25-26 FEBRUARY 2015
Austrade

Q No.	Program: Division or Agency	Senator	Broad topic	Question	Proof Hansard, page & hearing date or Written Qon	Date Rec'd	Date Tabled
1	Austrade	Wong	Australian Business Week in India (ABWI)	Senator WONG: Do you have to hand, or on notice can you provide, the following information [in relation to Australian Business Week in India]: [a] how many Australian businesses attended; [b] the process for invitation and selection for inclusion on the trip; ... [c] how many Austrade staff were involved in the planning and organisation of the event; [d] how many Austrade staff attended; ... [e] the overall cost to the department of this event? ... [f] How many government MPs attended? ... [g] other on-costs such as staff time and so forth.	Proof Hansard Pages 119 – 120	07/05/15	14/05/15
2	Austrade	Wong	Senior Investment Specialists	Senator WONG: Thank you. In your annual report you reported that the minister had requested that you establish a small team of senior investment specialists to boost the capacity of the investment division. I presume the minister gave you a direction to that effect; is that how that was transmitted? Mr Gosper: That was one of the policy initiatives the minister brought when elected and came into government. We put that in place. Senator WONG: How many are there? Mr Gosper: Five. Senator WONG: When were they appointed? Mr Gosper: I would have to give you the precise dates on notice. The fifth has just been appointed.	Proof Hansard Page 120	07/05/15	14/05/15

3	Austrade	Wong	TradeStart	<p>a. Senator WONG: Can you provide the locations of each TradeStart office or facility to be provided under the new round of TradeStart agreements finalised with TradeStart partners in 2014? Mr Gospers: There are currently 28 officers. I will have to take that on notice. I do not recall—</p> <p>b. Senator WONG: That is fine. How many TradeStart officers or advisers are to be employed under the new round of TradeStart agreements finalised with trade start partners in 2014? Mr Gospers: I will need to take that on notice.</p> <p>c. Senator WONG: Sure. What is the total amount of funding budgeted for TradeStart in the current financial year and in 2015-16, 2016-17 and 2017-18? Mr Gospers: I will take that on notice as well.</p>	Proof Hansard Pages 120 – 121	07/05/15	14/05/15
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4	Austrade	Singh	Cadbury	<p>Senator SINGH: If the business case does stack up [in relation to the Cadbury business case, which is currently with the Minister for Trade and Investment], when will the money be contracted and what is the schedule for construction of the project?</p> <p>Mr Gospers: I will have to take that on notice before we can give that answer.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Do the guidelines for this grant take into account the parent company's profits?</p> <p>Mr Gospers: I do not believe so. I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Under the guidance, will Cadbury be required to outline how it will create 320 jobs and what those jobs will be before it can be approved for funding? Or can it be approved without that kind of detail?</p> <p>Mr Gospers: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Can you provide a copy of the business case to the committee?</p> <p>Mr Gospers: The minister indicated last year that he would have some difficulty in doing that without the agreement of the company, so I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Can you take that on notice with the proviso that once you seek that from the minister you can provide the copy to the committee.</p> <p>Mr Gospers: I will take it on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>e. Senator SINGH: The Prime Minister also said there would be a cocoa-growing trial in the Ord River. When will the new cocoa plantation be up and running?</p> <p>Mr Gospers: I will have to take that on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard Pages 122 – 123	07/05/15	14/05/15
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5	Austrade	Gallacher	China Visa Applications	<p>Senator GALLACHER: This is the visa program quarterly report, 31 December 2014. I only got a print of it; I did not get it—</p> <p>Ms Lewis: I do not have all of the processing times with me, so I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: Perhaps someone can take that on notice: what is the actual time for a person who rocks up to a travel agent? Do they have to wait four weeks to get a visa to come to Australia?</p> <p>Ms Lewis: Yes.</p> <p>Senator Scullion: I will ensure that gets taken on notice by the appropriate people.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator GALLACHER: I have found that table where it says that, for a standard visitor visa lodged outside Australia, if you are considered low risk, it can take a day for approval; if you are considered high risk, it can take a month. The list of ETA eligible passports which are considered low risk—and it goes through and sets out the countries. China is not on it.</p> <p>CHAIR: Ms Lewis, you will take that on notice?</p> <p>Ms Lewis: Yes, and we would need to consult with the department of immigration.</p>	Proof Hansard Pages 125-126	07/05/15	14/05/15
6	Austrade	Singh	UNWTO withdrawal	<p>a. Senator SINGH: Do you know what the rationale is behind withdrawing, other than following other countries like sheep?</p> <p>Ms Lewis: Senator, I think it is appropriate that we take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: Can you tell me what the key benefits are of membership of the UNWTO?</p> <p>Ms Lewis: We will take that on notice Senator.</p> <p>b.</p> <p>c. CHAIR: There cannot be too many by the sound of it.</p> <p>Senator SINGH: The annual leadership course?</p> <p>Ms Lewis: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>d. Senator SINGH: What events Australia has participated in previously as a member?</p> <p>Ms Lewis: We will take that on notice.</p> <p>e. Senator SINGH: Could you also take on notice then which countries are members of the UNWTO?</p> <p>Mr Gospers: Yes, Senator.</p>	Proof Hansard Pages 126 – 127	07/05/15	14/05/15

7	Austrade	Singh	Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund	<p>a. Senator SINGH: [in relation to the \$4.83 million Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund] When will the money actually be delivered to projects for Tasmania? Ms Lewis: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>b. Senator SINGH: Will there be a competitive grants program? Ms Lewis: I will take that on notice. We are working with the Tasmanian government around how they want to disperse the money.</p> <p>c. Senator SINGH: So you are currently working with the Tasmanian government and you have been doing that for the last 18 months? Ms Lewis: I would have to take that on notice. I think the money was only appropriated in the budget this year.</p> <p>...</p> <p>d. Senator SINGH: What about an expected time line for the funding to flow to the Tasmanian government? Ms Lewis: I cannot give you that. Senator SINGH: Is it in the next month, the next six months, another 18 months? Do you have no idea at all? Do you not have a ballpark figure at all? Ms Lewis: I will take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>e. Senator SINGH: Both you and the Tasmanian government are working through them but you are working through them incredibly slowly. It is incredibly frustrating, especially for people in the tourism sector and for jobs growth for Tasmanians as well, who desperately need jobs to grow. What about when successful applicants might actually receive funding? Do you think it would be this year? Ms Lewis: I will have to take that on notice.</p> <p>...</p> <p>f. Senator SINGH: Can I just finish on this regional package for Tasmania. With this tourism infrastructure and innovation fund for Tasmania, is that dollar for dollar? Mr Gospers: I do not believe so. Ms Lewis: I do not believe so, but can I take that on notice. Senator SINGH: I do not believe so, either. Ms Lewis: I am 99.9 per cent sure that it is not.</p> <p>g. Senator SINGH: What role has the state government or the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania had in the development of this fund? Mr Gospers: We will have to consult with Tasmania and give you the answer to that question, Senator.</p>	Proof Hansard Pages 127 and 129	07/05/15	14/05/15
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8	Austrade	Singh	Tourism Demand-Driver Infrastructure Programme (TDDI)	<p>a. Senator SINGH:[in relation to the TDDI Programme] I understand the tourism ministers meeting has agreed on guidelines for this program? Can they be tabled? Mr Gospers: Yes. I can refer to the guidelines if you would like. Senator SINGH: And could we have a copy? Mr Gospers: I will take it on notice, and we will give it to you in that fashion—would that be acceptable?</p> <p>...</p> <p>b. Senator SINGH: Can you tell me the dollar amounts for each state. Mr Gospers: Yes, I can. It was a formula agreed by the states and territories, and all ministers. Would you like the figures for 2014-15, or the total over the four years? Senator SINGH: Both. Mr Gospers: ... I will give you the figures on notice.</p>	Proof Hansard Pages 129 – 130	07/05/15	14/05/15
9	Austrade	Gallacher	Tourism Data Delays	<p>Senator GALLACHER: [in relation to the delay of critical tourism figures by the Department of Immigration and Border Protection] when did you and Tourism Australia first become aware of this? Mr Gospers: Quite recently. Senator GALLACHER: On Monday, 23 February, the same as the rest of us? You read it in the paper? Ms Lewis: No. I would have to take it on notice....</p>	Proof Hansard Page 132	07/05/15	14/05/15
10	Austrade	Brown	Cadbury	<p>a. What will happen to the \$16 million allocated to Cadbury in the 2014-15 Budget? b. Will this funding stay in the Austrade portfolio? c. Is this funding still allocated for Tasmanian tourism projects? If not, where will the funding be redirected to? d. When will new program guidelines be announced? e. Will any of the funds be used to reinstate the Tourism Industry Regional Fund?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
11	Austrade	Brown	AWIC	<p>a. How much funding is allocated for Australia Week in China in 2016? b. What dates will AWIC be held in 2016 and in which locations? Please provide any draft agendas. c. Did the Minister receive any gifts as part of Australia Week in China 2014? If so please detail.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15

12	Austrade	Brown	Northern Australia White Paper	Has Austrade and/or Tourism Australia contributed to the Government's Northern Australia White Paper? If so, please details.	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
13	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Refund Scheme	<p>a. Is Austrade currently performing any work on the Tourist Refund Scheme? If so, what is the nature of the work?</p> <p>b. Has Austrade met with any stakeholders or third parties in relation to the TRS? If so please list meetings with names, dates, time, location, agenda and minutes.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
14	Austrade	Brown	ABS Survey of Tourist Accommodation	<p>a. Has funding been secured for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation from 2014-15 onwards and over the forward estimates? If so please detail where the funding is coming from and how much.</p> <p>b. Please detail the dates the Survey of Tourist Accommodation is due to be published over the forward estimates.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
15	Austrade	Brown	Aquis	<p>a. Has Austrade met with Tony Fung or any representatives of Aquis? If so, on what dates and where and provide a copy of any briefing provided to the Minister's office.</p> <p>c. Has Austrade offered Aquis or representatives any assistance or advice in relation to the proposed development? If so please detail.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
16	Austrade	Brown	MOU Carnival and Austrade	Does Austrade have any role in the MOU between Carinval Australia and AusAID? If so, what?	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
17	Austrade	Brown	Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme	<p>a. Are tourism operators eligible to apply for the Entrepreneurs' Infrastructure Programme?</p> <p>b. Has the Minister made any representations regarding tourism operator's eligibility for the EIP? If so what was the nature of those representations?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
18	Austrade	Brown	Stakeholder Meetings	Which tourism stakeholders has Austrade met with since last estimates? Please list meeting date, company/organisation, nature of meeting and topics discussed.	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
19	Austrade	Brown	Visitor Visa Reform	<p>a. Has Austrade had any dealings with the Department of Immigration regarding visitor visa reform? If so please provide full details.</p> <p>b. Has Austrade performed any modelling in regards to the potential impact of visitor visa reform on tourist numbers? If so please provide copies of any findings or reports.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
20	Austrade	Brown	Wanda Group	Has the Minister or Austrade met with Wanda Group or any of its representatives? If so please detail date, attendees, location and nature of the meeting.	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15

21	Austrade	Brown	Medical Tourism	Is Austrade aware of reports of an increase to medical tourism in Australia? Has the Minister been briefed on this issue? Does Austrade have a policy on medical tourism?	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
22	Austrade	Brown	Sports Tourism	Does Austrade have a policy on sports tourism? Is Austrade working on any further partnerships with any other countries in relation to sports, arts or cultural events? If so please detail.	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
23	Austrade	Brown	Amendments to Australian Trade Commission Act 1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is Austrade aware of a new provision being introduced to Parliament to include domestic tourism as a function of Austrade? b. Why is this provision being introduced? c. How much time will Austrade give to domestic tourism upon the passage of this legislation? d. Does Austrade current involve itself with domestic tourism? If so please detail how? e. Does Austrade currently involve itself with any activities that are exclusively related to domestic tourism as opposed to international tourism? f. How is this balance expected to change as a result of this legislation? g. How many staff will be allocated to work on domestic tourism exclusively as a result of this change? 	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
24	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Research Australia	Have there been any staff changes at TRA since the last estimates? If so please detail.	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
25	Austrade	Brown	Staffing	How many people now work in the Tourism Division of Austrade? How many worked in the Tourism Division as at 7 September 2013? Have there been any changes since last estimates? If so please detail. How many people work at Tourism Research Australia? How many worked at TRA as at 7 September 2013?	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
26	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Research Advisory Board	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Is the board still in existence? When did it last meet (please provide date, location, time) and what is the current membership (please provide names) b. Has the board set the research priorities for 2015? If so please detail. If not, why not? c. Is climate change still a research priority for tourism? If not, why not? 	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15

27	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Demand Driver Infrastructure Program	<p>a. Please provide a copy of the guidelines agreed on by the Tourism Ministers Meeting for this program.</p> <p>b. Are public transport projects eligible under the guidelines?</p> <p>c. Is Austrade aware of comments by the Prime Minister stating "Now the Commonwealth government has a long history of funding roads. We have no history of funding urban rail and I think it's important that we stick to our knitting, and the Commonwealth's knitting when it comes to funding infrastructure is roads."? Does the Prime Minister's statement affect the eligibility of public transport projects?</p> <p>d. Please state the funding allocation for each state and territory, in total and by year.</p> <p>e. What is the definition of 'demand-driver' infrastructure? Who came up with the definition?</p> <p>f. Is there a minimum amount of a demand a project must generate in order to receive funding? What does this constitute?</p> <p>g. Will Austrade approve each project or will the assessment process be left up to the states?</p> <p>h. Has funding already been provided to the states? If not, what checkpoints must occur before funding is provided to a specific project?</p> <p>i. Are (a) local governments (b) tourism operators eligible for funding under this program?</p> <p>j. What is the program timeline? Will there be any further rounds of the program?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
28	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Ministers Meetings	<p>a. What dates have Tourism Ministers Meetings been held since September 2013? Please provide location, time, place, attendees and agenda as well as minutes.</p> <p>b. Please provide forward schedule for meetings for remainder of 2015.</p> <p>c. Of these, how many meetings has Mr Robb attended since September 2013?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15

29	Austrade		Tasmanian Jobs and Growth Plan	<p>a. Given the money was announced 18 months ago, when will the money actually be delivered to projects in Tasmania?</p> <p>b. Will the fund be a competitive grants program?</p> <p>c. When will the fund be open to applications and when will the fund close to applications?</p> <p>d. Can you provide an expected timeline for the funding to flow? When does the department expect successful applicants will actually receive funding and how many jobs is the fund expected to generate?</p> <p>e. What is the assessment process for approving the successful applicants and who will make the final decisions around which projects will and won't receive funding?</p> <p>f. Are there any safeguards in place to ensure that this fund doesn't suffer from the rotting which occurred under previous Liberal Government discretionary funds?</p> <p>g. What role, if any, has the State Government or the Tourism Industry Council Tasmania had in the development of the Regional Tourism Infrastructure and Innovation Fund?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
30	Austrade	Brown	Public Transport	<p>a. What role does public transport play in the Australian tourism industry?</p> <p>b. Does Austrade have any statistics on public transport use by visitors, domestic and international? If so please provide.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
31	Austrade	Brown	Climate Change	<p>a. In Austrade's view, how significant a threat is climate change to Australia's tourism industry into the future?</p> <p>b. Is Austrade involved in any policy work relating to climate change and tourism? If so, please detail.</p> <p>c. What steps is Austrade taking to address the issue of climate change as it relates to Australia's tourism industry?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
32	Austrade	Brown	National Tourism Incident Response Plan (NTIRP)	<p>a. Is the NTIRP still in existence?</p> <p>b. When was the NTIRP last reviewed?</p> <p>c. When was the last meeting of the NTIRP Monitoring Group?</p> <p>d. How many Tourism division staff have been allocated to the management and updating of the NTIRP?</p> <p>e. What is the current NTIRP Activation Level? Has this changed since 7 September 2013?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15

33	Austrade	Brown	Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT)	<p>a. When did ASCOT last meet?</p> <p>b. Have there been any changes to membership since the last estimates?</p> <p>c. When will the next meeting meet? Please provide forward schedule of meetings for 2015.</p> <p>d. Does ASCOT have a work plan? If so please provide full details.</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
34	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Major Project Facilitation service	<p>a. Are any projects currently utilizing this service? If so please provide full project details for each project.</p> <p>b. How much funding is allocated to this service across the forward estimates?</p> <p>c. How many FTE staff are engaged in the provision of this service?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
35	Austrade	Brown	Approved Destination Status	<p>a. How many inbound tour operators (ITOs) and tour guides are registered with ADS</p> <p>b. How many random checks of ADS did Austrade or the relevant authority conduct in 2014?</p> <p>c. Of these, how many were found to be in breach of the relevant codes of conduct? What was the nature of the breaches? Please detail separately for each breach.</p> <p>d. How many 'mystery shoppers' were engaged as part of the monitoring process in 2014 and were any breaches detected?</p> <p>e. Did any tour guides have their ADS approval suspended or revoked since 7 September 2013? In what circumstances did each occur?</p>	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
36	Austrade	Brown	Tourism Directions Conference – State of the Industry Report	When will the next State of the Industry report be published?	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
37	Austrade	Brown	Restaurant Australia	Is Austrade aware of any government-funded marketing campaigns in which venues owned or part owned by Mr Robb feature. If so please detail.	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15

38	Austrade	Wong	Appointments to boards	<p>For all appointments to boards, authorities and advisory committees made by the Minister for Trade personally or by a delegate or agent of the Minister since 18 September 2013 provide the following details:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. name of person appointed b. title of position c. name of board, authority or advisory committee d. appointment start date e. appointment expiry date f. selection process g. remuneration. 	Written	07/05/15	14/05/15
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