

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

1 June 2010

**Question:** **BR11**  
**Topic:** **Program Support – Australian Standing Committee on Tourism and the Tourism Ministers’ Council**  
**Proof Hansard Page:** **E44-E45**

**Senator Bushby asked:**

Senator BUSHBY—What about program support funding for strategic support for the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism and the TMC?

Ms Madden—That is done at the Commonwealth level. Yes, in my division there is a dedicated team and the section responsible for supporting both the Tourism Ministers Council and the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism.

Senator BUSHBY—And the program support funding? How much do you spend—

Ms Madden—It is a departmental expense. It includes secretariat support to those two councils, the Tourism Ministers Council and the Standing Committee on Tourism.

Senator BUSHBY—Okay, so my question before about how much of the department’s resources are actually spent in support of that program—

Ms Madden—Yes, that would be picked up in that.

Senator BUSHBY—But you cannot tell me today?

Ms Madden—I do not have the exact breakdown here but I can provide that to you on notice.

**Answer:**

The Department does not allocate internally in a formal budgetary manner how much time is done in kind by its officers for each of the various activities it undertakes. Consistent with broader Australian Public Service practice, the Tourism Division’s operating budget is applied flexibly to meet ongoing and emerging priorities, although some activities also have separate program funding.

The Strategy Implementation Section within the Tourism Division was set up specifically to provide an enhanced level of strategic support (including a secretariat) for the Australian Standing Committee on Tourism (ASCOT) and the Tourism Ministers’ Council (TMC), including coordinating and supporting the working groups that have been established to implement the National Long-Term Tourism Strategy.

As at 1 July 2010, the Strategy Implementation Section comprises three staff with annual Tourism Division staff costs for this section (including overheads) being approximately \$425,000.

In addition, staff from each of the Division's four branches also provide indirect support for ASCOT and TMC (for example, through preparation of briefing papers in advance of meetings). These indirect staff costs would be difficult to quantify.