

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Budget Senate Estimates

1 June 2010

Question: BR24

Topic: Aussie Specialist Program

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Senator Birmingham asked:

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Thank you. Looking at a couple of the other program areas, I see the reduction from the 2009-10 to 2010-11 has been shared across each of your program classes. In 1.2, I note that you appear to be maintaining the Aussie Specialist Program. What impact will it have on your familiarisation visits in 1.2?

Mr McEvoy—I do not think it will have a big impact on familiarisation visits. We will probably just continue to work with airline partners and the states and territories to make sure we can host those. I do not think there is any material impact on the Visiting Journalist Program.

Senator BIRMINGHAM—Again, if there are any numbers that you can provide now or on notice, that would be appreciated—in a year-on-year comparison.

Mr McEvoy—Sure.

Answer:

Tourism Australia's operating budget for deliverable projects under *Program 1.2: Strengthening the travel distribution system* has been maintained, including the Aussie Specialists Program.

The reduction reflected in the Portfolio Budget Statements 2010-11 for Program 1.2 reflects the overall budget reduction in appropriation year-on-year and includes a pro-rata share of corporate cost savings. Program 1.2 was also allocated a share of the AUD\$9 million brought forward from the 2010-11 appropriation. There is also an impact of foreign exchange, with the strengthening of the Australian dollar in 2010-11.