

Estimates Committee 2003
Questions Taken On Notice

(01/10/2002 to 01/10/2004)

Date: 06/27/2003

Output:

Sub Output:

Subject: Indigenous owned tourist operations and related matters in the NT

From: Mr WOOD to Dr Christopher BURNS
Minister for Tourism

Question: **9-4** How many indigenous owned tourist operations there are in the NT? How many people are directly involved in tourism, and what percentage would be indigenous, and what effort do you put into developing the indigenous tourist industry?



Legislative Assembly of the Northern Territory
Estimates Committee 2003

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Registration No.: 9.4
Responsible Minister: Minister for Tourism
Responsible Agency: Northern Territory Tourist Commission

WRITTEN QUESTION

FROM: *Mr Wood MLA* **Tel.:** 8951 5588
Member for Nelson
TO: *Minister responsible for Tourism (Burns)*

Question

1. How many indigenous owned tourist operations there are in the NT?
2. How many people are directly involved in tourism, and what percentage would be indigenous?
3. What effort do you put into developing the indigenous tourist industry?

ANSWER

[Output Group to which the Question refers]: *Tourism, Marketing*

1. Neither the Australian Bureau of Statistics nor any Northern Territory Government department maintains data on the ethnicity of business ownership. Reasons for this includes the range of commercial models of ownership and because ethnicity has no relevance to business enterprise.
2. In 2001/02, the NTTC estimates 8,400 Territorians were directly employed in tourism and another 6,200 were indirectly employed in tourism. The percentage of indigenous employees is not known because the Australian Bureau of Statistics does not identify tourism as an industry sector group. Additionally, data on ethnicity is only optional in the census. Consequently, data is very limited. However, the proportion of indigenous employees in tourism is very low.
3. The NTTC has a Tourism Development Unit comprising 11 professional officers with responsibility for providing support to tourism business enterprises. Some of these enterprises are related to indigenous tourism, being a key point of difference for the Territory.

The Indigenous Tourism Strategy provides the basis for development priorities in the Unit and two staff have special responsibilities in this area. The budget for this area is \$143,000 in 2003/04. Currently there are approximately 160 indigenous tourism products under consideration. This includes products ranging from concept through to fully operational and international market ready activities.

The NTTC maintains contact with all these operators and provides assistance on an as needed basis or refers operators to appropriate sources of advice. The following principles direct these activities and development must demonstrate;

- Cultural Sustainability
- Ecological Sustainability
- Authenticity
- Quality and Integrity
- Community benefit
- Financial Sustainability

The NTTC also works closely with other agencies with similar commitment to indigenous development, such as Community Development.