



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2014-2015

Brendan Smyth MLA (Chair), Mary Porter MLA (Deputy-Chair),
Giulia Jones MLA, Yvette Berry MLA



**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Mr Smyth on 27 June 2014: Mr Hill took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 27 June 2014 [PAGE 1212 - 1213]]

In relation to: Room occupancy rates

THE CHAIR: Minister, when was the last time occupancy rates fell below the national average?

Mr Hill: I would have to take that on notice. I am not sure, to be honest.

MINISTER BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

The average room occupancy rate is measured by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) via the *Survey of Tourist Accommodation*.

The table below highlights quarters where the room occupancy rate for the ACT fell below the national average:

| Quarter | ACT average room occupancy (%) | National average room occupancy (%) |
|----------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| September 1998 | 58.4 | 58.8 |
| December 1998 | 58.9 | 59.7 |
| March 1999 | 57.6 | 58.5 |
| September 2000 | 56.8 | 58.4 |
| December 2001 | 57.4 | 57.6 |
| December 2012 | 65.8 | 67.0 |

Note - the ABS recently announced that the Survey of Tourist Accommodation would be removed from their survey program due to significant cuts (in the order of \$50 million) to the ABS budget. Austrade has subsequently reached an agreement with the ABS to proceed with the collection of Survey of Tourist Accommodation data for the 2013-14 financial year period. Future funding arrangements for the Survey of Tourist Accommodation beyond 2013-14 are yet to be confirmed.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2014-2015

Signature: 

Date: 7.7.14

By the Minister for Tourism and Events, Andrew Barr MLA