



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR THE HON NICK SHERRY

Minister for Small Business
Minister Assisting on Deregulation and Public Sector Superannuation
Minister Assisting on Tourism

CRUISE SHIPPING A BRIGHT SPOT IN AUSTRALIAN TOURISM

The Defence Minister's announcement of an independent review of the future use of the naval docks at Sydney's Garden Island by visiting cruise ships is a welcome development for the tourism industry, the Minister Assisting on Tourism, Senator Nick Sherry, said today.

"Cruise shipping is a stand-out success story of tourism, growing by a stunning 26 per cent in the past 12 months," Senator Sherry said.

"Sydney is by far the number one port for cruise ship visits to Australia. Almost 40 per cent of all passenger days at port are in Sydney and it's essential this important tourist market has the proper infrastructure to meet this demand.

"The most recent industry figures show about 330,000 Australians are taking up this kind of holiday each year.

"In 2009-10, estimated total expenditure of international cruise ship arrivals was \$815.1 million, including direct expenditure of \$420.4 million.

"This was an 11.7% increase from 2008-09, when total expenditure was estimated at \$729.9 million.

"When domestic passengers and crew are included, the estimated total expenditure in 2009-10 was \$1,281.6 million.

"In addition to employment generated by onshore spending when at port, it is estimated around 1,500-2,000 Australians are employed on cruise ships, mainly in the ports where cruise ships are based such as Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane, Perth, Cairns and Darwin.

"When domestic passengers and crew are included, the estimated employment was 5,781 full-time equivalent positions in 2009-10," Senator Sherry said.

CANBERRA

16 June 2011

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