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STRONG START TO THE YEAR FOR DOMESTIC TOURISM

Australia's domestic tourism market has continued its strong growth and recorded higher holiday and business travel spending during the year ending March 2016.

New National Visitor Survey figures released today by Tourism Research Australia show domestic overnight trip spend grew 5 per cent to \$58.3 billion. The number of overnight trips increased by 8 per cent to 88.5 million, while nights grew 5 per cent to 327 million. The number of domestic day trips also recorded strong growth, increasing 9 per cent to 183.2 million. Day trip spend grew 5 per cent to reach \$19.3 billion.

Along with strong growth in international visitors to Australia for the same period, domestic results confirm the increasing importance of tourism to Australia's economy. In total, tourism contributed \$115.5 billion in expenditure for the year ending March 2016, an increase of 8 per cent or \$8.9 billion from last year.

Domestic overnight trips increased for both holiday and business travel, primarily shorter trips of one to three nights. Holiday trips increased by 9 per cent to a record 36.1 million (up three million), and overnight holiday spend increased four per cent on the previous year to \$28.4 billion. Overnight business trips grew 11 per cent to 18.5 million (up 1.9 million), and spending increased 14 per cent to \$15.4 billion.

On the back of strong growth for domestic overnight holiday and business travel, the number of nights in hotels, motels and resorts increased 6 per cent to 81.1 million, accounting for 25 per cent of all domestic visitor nights.

The National Visitor Survey is available on the Tourism Research Australia website: www.tra.gov.au

Media notes:

- When reporting TRA data, Tourism Research Australia (or TRA) must be attributed as the source.
- Media contact: tourism.research@tra.gov.au or (02) 6272 6968

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