

**Senate Standing Committee on Economics**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio  
Budget Senate Estimates  
31 May 2011

**Question:** BR18  
**Topic:** Chefs in Training  
**Proof Hansard Page:** 38

**Senator Eggleston asked:**

**Senator EGGLESTON:** There is not scope for increasing the numbers of chefs in training in Australia as part of a solution to this problem?

**Ms Madden:** Yes.

**Mr Clarke:** Oh, yes. It is not that the only solution is migration. This was about identifying what was the hot spot where flexibility in international labour coming into Australia would be desirable.

**Senator EGGLESTON:** What would the demand be for more chefs in this country? Is it 200, 2,000, 5,000?

**Mr Clarke:** We did that research as part of presenting the business case for the change. We are happy to take that one on notice and provide you with that data.

**Senator EGGLESTON:** If you would, that would be interesting. Also going to 30 April 2011 again, is there national uniformity for responsible service of alcohol qualifications across the country? Have you achieved that goal?

**Ms Madden:** I'm happy to say very good progress-

**Senator Sherry:** As yet, no, but considerable progress. There is a lot of work being done. If I can put my Deregulation hat on, as Minister for Deregulation, we are slowly, and I have to say it is a slow process- obtaining recognition in areas such as training units, prior learning, prior training, prior skills across states and territories. It is happening, but it is happening gradually.

**Answer:**

The National Long-Term Tourism Strategy Labour and Skills Working Group prepared a business case to Skills Australia for the inclusion of world class chefs on the Skilled Occupation List in November 2010. The business case highlighted that at September 2010, the Clarius Skills Index rated the shortage of chefs as the highest across 19 occupations, with demand for 5,900 chefs.

A 2010 Service Skills Australia *Labour and skills requirements in the services industries* report forecasted a need for an additional 18,000 chefs required at an average growth rate of 2.8 per cent from 2009 to 2015, based on current trends.

The March 2011 Clarius Skills Index reported the shortage of Chefs as the second highest across 20 occupations across Australia, with demand for 4,800 chefs as at the March 2011 quarter. The Index for chefs is at the extreme range and highlights the tight labour market for chefs compared to other skilled occupations.