

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Resources, Energy and Tourism Portfolio

Supplementary Budget Estimates

19 October 2011

Question: SR37
Topic: International Workers
Proof Hansard Page: Written

Senator Bushby asked:

1. Can RET provide an update on your discussions with the Department of Immigration and Citizenship on lengthening the time limit for working holiday visas by a year?
2. How will RET measure the performance of the Pacific Guest Worker Scheme, and will this information be made available to inform the Parliaments deliberations around how Australia can meet its Tourism and Hospitality sector skills shortage?

Answer:

1. As an action from the Tourism Industry Employment Roundtable of 30 August 2011, the Labour and Skills Working Group (LSWG) was tasked to lead an analysis on the merits of proposed changes to the Working Holiday Maker (WHM) program. As a member of the LSWG, the Department of Resources, Energy and Tourism is involved in a dialogue with Department of Immigration and Citizenship and other LSWG members on developing options for reform of the WHM program.
2. The Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations is the responsible agency for the administration of the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme and measuring its performance. To support skills shortages in Broome it was selected as the first hotspot, along with the Red Centre (NT) to rollout a tourism regional employment plan.