

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

**Outcome/Agency        8**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1036\_09**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

**Question**

*Pacific Guest Worker Scheme*

Given that health checks will be required to take place in the home countries before visas are granted what measures have been taken to ensure that there are the required facilities available in these countries to conduct these checks?

**Answer**

All participating countries (Tonga, Kiribati, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea) have Department of Immigration and Citizenship-approved 'panel doctors', who will conduct the required health assessments. Where Department of Immigration and Citizenship -approved panel radiologists are not available (Kiribati and Vanuatu), state hospitals will conduct the chest x-ray, which will then be reviewed by a Department of Immigration and Citizenship -approved panel doctor. Tonga has three appointed Department of Immigration and Citizenship panel doctors, two of whom are also radiologists. Vanuatu has two panel doctors. Kiribati has one panel doctor and Papua New Guinea (PNG) has ten panel doctors and two radiologists. All medical reports will be assessed by a Medical Officer of the Commonwealth in Australia and the overseas post will be advised of the results.

An audit of the panel doctors to ensure integrity was conducted in February/March 2008 for Kiribati, Tonga and Vanuatu and in June 2008 for Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby only).