

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

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

Outcome/Agency **8**

DEEWR Question No. EW1037_09

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

Pacific Guest Worker Scheme

Have you looked at any modelling in relations to the economic benefits of the scheme, both in the pilot regions and generally?

Answer

An independent evaluation of the Pilot to be conducted at 18 months and at 30 months will examine, among other things, the potential benefits, to the Australian economy of a Pacific Seasonal Worker Scheme.

Treasury estimates show the net financial benefit to Pacific seasonal workers of working in either Griffith NSW or Swan Hill-Robinvale in Victoria for 6 months to be:

- about \$3000 if workers work 30 hours per week on average.
- about \$7000 if workers work 40 hours per week on average.

There is some variation depending on the country of origin for the workers (and thus the airfare costs) as well as location where the workers will be operating in Australia and hours worked.