

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Tertiary, Skills, International and Indigenous Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW1136_12

Senator Waters asked on 15 February 2012, Hansard page 106

Question

FIFO Arrangements

"Senator WATERS: I am interested in what research the department has done on the impact of those FIFO arrangements on the families of the workers and the communities to which they fly, particularly the remote communities. Could you tell me a bit and take on notice to provide some of the detail of that? I know it is a massive area and I am sure you have looked into it in detail. Ms Paul: We have just done a submission to the fly-in fly-out inquiry that is currently underway. It may be early days for a formal evaluation—I imagine it would be—nonetheless I will get you what we have. That probably means I will need to go to the other department. "

Answer

The Department of Industry, Innovation, Science, Research and Tertiary Education (DIISRTE) has provided the following response.

DIISRTE has not undertaken or commissioned research on the impact of FIFO arrangements on the families of the workers or the communities to which they fly. The Department is aware that these issues may be examined by the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Regional Australia's inquiry into 'Fly-in fly-out (FIFO) workforce practices'.

Minister Evans provided a submission to this inquiry that outlined a range of initiatives that the government has in place to connect job seekers to employment opportunities in Australia's growing resources and related construction industry sectors.

These initiatives include the establishment of a FIFO Coordinator in Cairns, which was recommended by the National Resources Sector Employment Taskforce in their *Resourcing the Future* final report. The role of the coordinator is to develop links between resources projects in remote locations and suitable, interested job seekers in the Cairns region. The coordinator project will run for two years and its impact on connecting job seekers to remote employment opportunities will be evaluated at the end of the project.