

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Budget Estimates 2012-2013**

**Outcome 3 – Employment**

**DEEWR Question No.** EW0251\_13

**Senator Cash asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 48**

**Question**

**Seasonal Worker Program - Cane Industry**

Senator CASH: I turn now to the Pacific Islander seasonal work program. I refer in particular to the sugar industry. When did the department first receive a request from the sugar industry for an early start date to allow training? Mr Roddam : We first received representations in relation to the issue on 22 February this year. Senator CASH: When you say you received representations, did those representations entail a request? Mr Roddam : They were representations from members of the opposition, so that was a request. Senator CASH: Okay, that was from the opposition. What about the sugar industry themselves? Mr Roddam : I understand that was the first time we had also received that request. That was the first time we were advised of that request. Senator CASH: So you had not received any earlier correspondence? Mr Roddam : I will take that on notice but my recollection is that we did not.

**Answer**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations received an email from CANEGROWERS on 27 January 2012 requesting that the commencement date of the Seasonal Worker Program for the cane industry be changed from 1 July 2012 to mid May 2012.