

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0480\_11**

**Senator Cash provided in writing.**

***PACIFIC ISLANDER SEASONAL WORKERS***

**Question**

How many Pacific Islander Seasonal Workers are currently working in Australia?  
How much has it cost to enact this program? Where are these workers located by  
state? What is the process when the visa expires?

**Answer**

As at Friday 5 November 2011, there are currently 13 workers from the Pacific working in Australia under the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme. Seven workers are located in New South Wales while six of the workers are in Queensland. At most, there have been up to 67 workers at any one time (between April and September 2010). The Australian Government has allocated \$23.514 million over four years to 30 June 2012 for the program, of which \$9.832 million over four years is for workplace relations compliance and Pilot implementation and evaluation costs in the Education, Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio.

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship has provided the following response:

Pacific seasonal workers are granted a sub-class 416 Special Program visa. The visa is for a period of stay of seven months while the employment contract is for six months. Given the requirement on Australian Approved Employers to guarantee only six months of work, Pacific seasonal workers have returned home by the time their visas expire.