

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 27-28 May 2013

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(BE13/0292) PROGRAM – 1.1: Visa and Migration

Senator Cash (Written) asked:

What is the status of this scheme? Have any additional countries been included in these arrangements?

Answer:

On 1 July 2012, the Seasonal Worker Program came into effect, replacing the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme (the Pilot). The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations is the lead agency for the Seasonal Worker Program. The program has 12 000 visa places available over four years: 10 450 for the horticulture program (2012-16) and 1 550 for a three-year trial in the accommodation, aquaculture, cane and cotton sectors (2012-15) in selected regions.

No additional countries have been included since the Pilot transitioned to the Seasonal Worker Program. Participating countries are Timor-Leste, Kiribati, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.