

## QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

### SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 21 OCTOBER 2008

#### IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

#### **(30) Output 1.1: Migration and Temporary Entry**

Senator Fierravanti-Wells (L&CA 65) asked:

Can you please tell me what are your priorities in terms of the criteria you are pushing for? Can you assist me with that? What sort of assurances are you seeking? Are we going to have instances where somebody is brokering the arrival of 10 cousins into Australia for a fee? That is potentially an issue.

*Answer:*

As each of the Memoranda of Understanding that will govern the scheme are still the subject of ongoing negotiations, it is only appropriate to provide some general comments about what Australia is seeking in the intergovernmental arrangements.

The Memoranda of Understanding are being negotiated subject to the following principles:

- equity of access and opportunity for workers;
- transparency of process and decision-making ;
- accountability;
- the employer demand-driven nature of employment under the Pacific Seasonal Workers Pilot Scheme;
- maximisation of development-focused benefits; and,
- mutual commitment to investing maximum effort to mitigate risk to the Participants, respective Governments, and seasonal workers.

In this context, the Australian Government is seeking assurances from our partner governments that:

- only work-ready people of good health and character are put forward for employment in Australia;
- that no compensation or fees (including gifts or other rewards) are sought by recruitments agents from workers for inclusion in the scheme; and
- that all workers take part in pre-departure briefings, including material prepared by the Australian Government.

The Memoranda of Understanding are designed to provide reassurance to both parties that machinery is put in place in both sending and receiving jurisdictions to adequately ensure these expectations are implemented effectively.