

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(120) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services

Senator Cash (L&CA 118) asked:

In relation to the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme establishment, are there any guidelines surrounding what the \$400,000 can actually be used for?

Answer:

The Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme is a demand-driven program which responds to the needs of the Australian horticultural industry. As part of the establishment of the Pilot, \$400,000 was made available to support community engagement and social cohesion in areas where workers under the Pilot are to be located. Community engagement funding under the Pilot was allocated to incorporated, not-for-profit organisations or local government authorities.

The aims of the projects have been to promote community cohesion and address emerging issues of cultural, racial and religious intolerance specific to the pilot locations.

The projects to date have been developed collaboratively with employers, local government, industry groups and community organisations in the pilot locations. Up to 2500 visas will be available over three years for workers from Kiribati, Tonga, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea to work in Australia for up to seven months in any 12-month period.

The \$400,000 available can be used to support projects aimed at:

- improving cultural awareness of employers and workers;
- engaging local residents to provide community support; and
- offering opportunities such as cultural activities for workers to participate in community life.

The community engagement funding cannot be allocated to projects that comprise solely of:

- continuation of existing activities or current internal functions of an organisation
- retrospective or deficit funding for projects already underway or completed
- subsidy of general ongoing administrative costs
- capital expenditure
- health and welfare projects or the provision of settlement services
- academic research or teacher development projects, and
- travel and other expenses for conferences or short training program