

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING: 19 OCTOBER 2010

IMMIGRATION AND CITIZENSHIP PORTFOLIO

(362) Program 6.1: Multicultural and Citizenship Services

Senator Cash asked:

On the 13th March 2009 for a period of 24 month, the Griffith City Council was allocated \$42,900.00 for Pacific Seasonal Workers Pilot Scheme.

- (a) What were the measures of financial accountability and outcomes for the Griffith City Council?
- (b) What was the grant for?
- (c) What did it achieve?

Answer:

(a) The Funding Agreement between the Department of Immigration and Citizenship and Griffith City Council included an Approved Budget, performance monitoring measures and agreed project outcomes as part of approved work program. The Agreement required the organisation to provide an end of year Audited Financial Statement detailing how funds were spent and progress reports every six months outlining its performance against the Outcomes and Activities set out in the approved work program for the relevant period.

(b) The Griffith Community Engagement Strategy aimed to develop community engagement and communication activities over two years (2009 and 2010) as part of the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme. The project's key objective was to identify and engage key stakeholders and community groups in activities to promote cross cultural understanding between the community and workers, and strengthen social cohesion and community harmony.

(c) Initial reporting indicated good preparatory work consistent with the terms of the Agreement and the small number of Pacific Seasonal Workers located in the area. However, the expected demand for Pacific Seasonal Workers by the region's horticulture sector did not materialise. The primary focus and intent of the project (i.e. pastoral care and social cohesion) diminished.

Because of significant project underspend and project inactivity, it was considered unlikely that the terms of the Agreement and project objectives could be fulfilled in the long run. Consequently the Department has decided to proceed to formally suspend the project and recover unspent funds.