



PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM SECRETARIAT

Office of the Secretary General

Your Ref:
Our Ref: EP/1/7/2
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Transmitted by Email: eet.sen@aph.gov.au

Committee Secretary
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA

Dear Madam/Sir,

INQUIRY INTO PACIFIC REGION SEASONAL CONTRACT LABOUR

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to make a submission to the Committee for Employment, Workplace Relations and Education, regarding the Senate's inquiry into the use of labour from countries in the Pacific to meet the seasonal employment needs of the horticultural and other intensive agriculture industries in Australia.

2. As indicated in your background information to the inquiry, this issue was discussed in some detail at the Forum leaders' meeting last year in Papua New Guinea. This submission summarises that debate in relation to point (e) in the inquiry's terms of reference - the likely effects of the provision of Pacific seasonal labour on the economies of the Pacific.

3. We welcome the decision to explore in greater detail the costs and benefits associated with such a programme, and are happy to assist further. If you require such assistance, please contact Dr Jim Gosselin, Acting Manager Economic Governance (ph. (679) 331-2600; fax (679) 331-2226; e-mail jimg@forumsec.org.fj).

4. Please note that this paper was prepared by officers of the Forum Secretariat, and was not the subject of consultation with our members.

Yours sincerely,

Greg Urwin
Secretary General