

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency **8**

DEEWR Question No. EW1026_09

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

Pacific Guest Worker Scheme

How many employers is it anticipated will be approved to sponsor the seasonal workers in the first instance with the pilot and then subsequently over the life of the scheme?

Answer

The employer in the Pacific Seasonal Worker Pilot Scheme is the approved labour hire company.

In December 2008, DEEWR called for expressions of interest from labour hire companies (LHCs) interested in employing Pacific seasonal workers. One hundred visas were available.

On 7 January 2009, two LHCs were invited to participate as employers in the Pilot:

- Griffith Skills Training Centre Inc (trading as Summit Personnel) to employ workers from Tonga and Vanuatu in Griffith and Swan Hill-Robinvale; and
- Tree Minders Pty Ltd to employ workers from Tonga in the Swan Hill-Robinvale.

A second call for expressions of interest from labour hire companies for the remaining 2400 visas is expected in March-April 2009. No particular number of labour hire companies invited to participate in the scheme is anticipated.