

Select Committee on Temporary Migration
Answers to questions on notice
Agriculture, Water and the Environment Portfolio

Inquiry: Temporary Migration
Question No: IQ21-000068
Division/Agency: Agricultural Policy Division (APD)
Topic: Written questions on notice - agricultural employment
Question Date: 13 May 2021
Question Type: Written

Select Committee on Temporary Migration asked:

1. What programs or initiatives has the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment offered or funded over the past five years to facilitate Australian workers taking up employment in the agricultural industry?
 - a. How has the Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment evaluated the effectiveness of these programs?
 - b. Please provide a breakdown of each programme, its allocated funding for positions and number of positions actually filled.

Answer:

The Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment does not traditionally have responsibility for employment programs but works closely with a range of Australian Government agencies, including the Departments of Education, Skills and Employment and Social Services, to support delivery of programs and initiatives which incentivise Australian workers to undertake agricultural work.

In recognition of the challenges facing agriculture and the opportunities this work presents young people, the government has committed \$29.8 million in the 2021–22 Budget to help the agriculture sector modernise its practices and image to reflect the dynamic, innovative and resilient industry it is today. This includes investing in a pilot structured employment program – AgCAREERSTART – to help school leavers experience work in agriculture.