

Senate Select Committee on Temporary Migration

QUESTION ON NOTICE Inquiry into Temporary Migration

Outcome: Employment

Department of Education, Skills and Employment Question No. IQ21-000095

The Committee provided in writing.

Relocation programs

Question

What relocation programs does the Department of Education, Skills and Employment provide, or fund, to temporary visa holders looking to relocate to areas where there are labour market shortages?

- a. Provide a breakdown of the services provided or funded over the previous five years.
- b. How does the Department of Education, Skills and Employment evaluate the effectiveness of the relocation programs it provides, or funds, to temporary visa holders?

Answer

As announced in the 2020-21 October Budget, from 1 November 2020 to 30 December 2021, the government will provide assistance to Australians and temporary visa holders who relocate for short-term jobs in agriculture.

This assistance, called AgMove, is available to people who relocate to harvest and regional areas to take up short-term agricultural work, including Australians not on income support and temporary visa holders with the general rights to work in Australia, such as Working Holiday Visa holders and international students. Under AgMove temporary visa holders can get reimbursed up to \$2,000 for their relocation expenses.

Considering the short period of AgMove operations, the evaluation of its effectiveness has not been conducted as yet. However, AgMove has received positive comments from the agricultural industry peaks and take up by the temporary visa holders has been solid: as at 11 June 2021, more than 1,800 temporary visa holders have entered into AgMove agreements with employment service providers.