



**Australian Government**

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**Department of Education, Employment  
and Workplace Relations**

**Responses to questions on notice  
from the Joint Standing Committee on  
Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade at a  
public hearing on Friday, 12 September  
2008, further to inquiry into Australia's  
relationship with ASEAN**

**Question No. 1 (Page 78)**

The question relates to the Planned Pacific Islands Seasonal Workers pilot scheme. The Committee wished to know when seasonal workers under the scheme would be available to work in the Queensland and the Northern Territory?

**Response**

At this stage the Government has yet to finalise the locations for the pilot in Australia. The pilot will be confined to the horticulture sector and will occur only in areas where there is demonstrated unmet demand for labour. The Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations is currently consulting with Horticulture industry bodies and conducting surveys of growers in Swan Hill (Vic), Griffith (NSW) and Stanthorpe - Lockyer Valley region (Qld) to measure the extent of unmet demand for labour. These surveys are not yet complete.

**Question No. 2 (Page 81)**

The numbers of student enrolments from Indonesia has declined since 2002. Why?

**Response**

The market grew substantially in the late 1990s, boosted by an influx of students seeking to avoid political and social unrest in Indonesia. Early this decade, the numbers of students commencing their studies in Australia began to decrease slowly, and this then affected student enrolment numbers. Initially the decrease was associated with the downturn in the broader bilateral relationship following Australia's intervention in East Timor. Other factors also began to influence student numbers including tuition fee increases by Australia providers, the appreciation of the Australian dollar and increasing regional competition from Singapore and Malaysia. In the case of the schools sector, new high-quality schools also became available in Indonesia. In addition, recruiters from school, VET and university providers have been reluctant to travel to Indonesia in recent years, often citing the Australian Government's travel advisory for Indonesia.

Nonetheless, Australia remains the preferred study destination for Indonesian students, and recent figures suggest that the market is growing. In 2007, student commencements increased by 6.6 per cent on 2006. This pipelined into an increase in enrolments in 2008 - as of August, enrolments were up 4.1 per cent over the same period last year.

**Question No. 3 (Page 84)**

What is the trend in student enrolments in Asian languages in School and Higher Education over the last decade?

Response

Student enrolments in Asian languages in Schools

The following table provides trend data on Year 12 enrolments in Asian languages from 2000 to 2006. This information was drawn from the *National Report on Schooling in Australia 2006*.

**Table 1: Number of Year 12 students enrolled in: Japanese, Chinese, Indonesian, Korean and Vietnamese at School, 2000-2006**

	Year						
	2000	2001	2002 <sup>1</sup>	2003	2004	2005	2006
<b>Languages</b>							
Japanese <sup>2</sup>	5,403	5,481	4,883	4,738	4,852	5,056	4,983
Chinese	2,947	3,654	3,907	4,738	5,363	5,056	4,734
Indonesian	2,210	2,349	1,953	1,745	1,787	1,769	1,495
Korean	239	226	252		313	264	355
Vietnamese	737	522	488	499	511	506	498
Total	11,536	12,232	11,483	11,720	12,826	12,651	12,065

Source: National Report on Schooling in Australia 2006 Report (MCEETYA)

Note:

<sup>1</sup> Funding for the National Asian Languages and Studies in Australian Schools (NALSAS) Strategy ceased at the end of 2002.

<sup>2</sup> Numbers are approximate, rounded down to nearest whole number.

Student enrolments in Asian languages in Higher Education

**Table 2: Number of domestic undergraduate enrolments in Asian language courses, 2001 to 2007<sup>(a)</sup>**

	Year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Field of studies</b>							
Southwest Asian and North African Languages	53	56	54	61	62	80	84
Southern Asian Languages	4	3	0	0	0	0	0
Southeast Asian Languages	93	96	227	237	83	81	84
Eastern Asian Languages	656	631	580	579	487	418	534
Total <sup>(b)</sup>	519	558	622	643	539	517	512

Source: Selected Higher Education Statistics (DEEWR)

<sup>(a)</sup> This only counts the number of students enrolled in undergraduate or enabling courses where the Detailed Field of Education (DFOE) or supplementary DFOE is an Asian language course. There are some limitations to the data collection in relation to student enrolments in Asian language courses. Students may be enrolled in Asian language units of study but not be in a specific Asian language course.

<sup>(b)</sup> The data takes into account the coding of Combined Courses to two fields of education. As a consequence, counting both fields of education for Combined Courses means that the totals may be less than the sum of detailed fields of education.

**Table 3: Number of domestic undergraduate enrolments in Asian language courses: Thai, Japanese, Chinese and Indonesian, 2001 to 2007**

	Year						
	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
<b>Language</b>							
Thai	5	4	4	5	5	4	2
Japanese	310	144	302	303	103	57	48
Chinese	163	98	117	121	125	124	137
Indonesian	123	90	65	71	73	69	72
Total	601	336	488	500	306	254	259

Source: Selected Higher Education Statistics (DEEWR)