

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000092

Senator Cameron asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 74

#### Question

##### Harvest Labour Services

Mr Watson: Senator, it would be Harvest Labour Services. It could be as simple as somebody who is eligible for the program finding a vacancy on the National Harvest Labour Information Service website itself. It could be that they are actually mobilising people into those areas. The reason Harvest Labour was set up was it was matching areas of demand for these jobs where there was not natural supply. It could mean backpackers driving from Sydney into the Murray Darling area and operating where there is not natural supply for those jobs.

Senator CAMERON: Is the genesis of this the Pacific Islands program?

Mr Watson: No. It was around well before that.

Senator CAMERON: It has been around for a while?

Mr Watson: It has been around for a while; that is right. And the information service is a way of communicating with backpackers about where the jobs are, because the jobs are often, as I said, not where the natural supply is.

Senator CAMERON: Is there somewhere where we can find an outline of this program?

Mr Watson: I can provide some information if it is available.

Senator CAMERON: That would be handy.

Mr Watson: It is on our website. We have guidelines, which I would be happy to supply.

#### Answer

The Harvest Labour Service provides Australian job seekers and travellers visiting Australia who hold 417 (Working Holiday visa) and 462 (Work and Holiday visa) work visas assistance in finding work picking fruit and other crops in rural and regional Harvest Trail areas across Australia.

##### Harvest Labour Service Providers

Harvest Labour Service Providers help growers supplement local labour with out of area workers by linking job seekers with seasonal harvest work in certain rural and regional areas.

##### National Harvest Labour Information Service

The National Harvest Labour Information Service provides information on harvest work vacancies and opportunities across Australia through the Harvest Trail website.

([www.harvesttrail.gov.au](http://www.harvesttrail.gov.au)).

The Department's website ([www.employment.gov.au/harvest-labour-services](http://www.employment.gov.au/harvest-labour-services)) hosts a Harvest Trail fact sheet that provides prospective participants an overview of the programme.

Attachment A: The Harvest Trail fact sheet

Attachment B: Harvest Placement Guidelines