

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018**

#### **Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004065**

**Senator Cameron asked on 29 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 126**

#### **Question**

##### **Health check for Seasonal Worker Programme participant**

Senator CAMERON: When can you advise me as to whether Mr Fifita's health was checked?

Ms Durbin: I am happy to take that on notice. But it will be reliant on me talking to Tongan officials and providing information.

Senator CAMERON: Are you giving me an undertaking that you will talk to them about that specific issue?

Ms Durbin: I will certainly talk to my Tongan counterparts, yes.

Senator CAMERON: On the health check issue?

Ms Durbin: Yes.

#### **Answer**

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has advised the Department of Employment that the Ministry of Internal Affairs in the Kingdom of Tonga, which is responsible for retaining health records for its workers under the Seasonal Worker Programme, has confirmed that Mr Fifita completed a health check prior to arrival in Australia.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade advised that any specific questions on the practices within the Kingdom of Tonga or its citizens should be directed to it as it manages Australia's bilateral relationship with the Kingdom of Tonga.