

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency **8**

DEEWR Question No. EW1049_09

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

Pacific Guest Worker Scheme

What arrangements/safeguards are in place to ensure participating growers are not over charged which may force them out of the program?

Answer

Employers are required to pay the full cost of the workers' international airfare and recoup half through workers' wages; meet workers' domestic transfer costs; and ensure all workers have private health insurance equivalent to the Australian public health cover.

The fees charged by approved labour hire companies are a commercial matter between the company and the eligible grower.