

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

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

Outcome/Agency **8**

DEEWR Question No. EW1052_09

Senator Fierravanti-Wells provided in writing.

Question

Pacific Guest Worker Scheme

What steps have been taken to gain local community support for the programs given that local unemployment is on the rise?

Answer

The Department of Immigration and Citizenship, through the Diverse Australia Program, has been working with both Swan Hill Regional Council and Griffith City Council and community leaders to increase community harmony in the area.

Some \$1.2 million is being provided over four years for projects that will provide opportunities for positive interaction between the local community, employers and workers.

It is expected project activities will include sporting and other activities involving local community groups such as the Country Women's Association, Rotary, Lions and local church groups.