

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0410_12

Senator Back asked on 1/06/2011, Hansard page 46.

Question

Vacancy Data On National Skills List

the number of vacancies, demand at a particular point of time each year, and we can certainly provide, as we have taken on notice, that detail to the committee. Senator BACK: And that is really what I want to get to, if I may, Mr Maynard. How does the department source where those vacancies are? For example, in the case of agriculture and agribusiness, it has been put to me that that information has been sourced from city-based vacancy levels in newspapers. Would that be an accurate portrayal? Mr Maynard: As I am not au fait with the detail there, but I will happily take that question on notice.

Answer

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) undertakes skill shortage research on an ongoing basis. This research, which forms the basis of the National Skill Needs List, includes extensive engagement with employers through a Survey of Employers who have Recently Advertised (SERA), as well as analysis of a range of statistical data on supply and demand (see Attachment A). In 2010, discussions were held with more than 7500 employers and, in addition, the department consulted with industry bodies to verify results. The Australian Bureau of Statistics reviewed the methodology in 2006 and found it was appropriate for its purpose.

The SERA is a sample survey of employers who have recently advertised vacancies in selected skilled occupations which provides evidence-based information about employers' recruitment experiences. A summary of the methodology is published at www.deewr.gov.au/skillshortages.

Surveyed vacancies are collected from all available sources, including metropolitan and regional newspapers, specialist publications, internet job boards, general employment and specialist industry/occupational Internet sites and even notices on business premises.