

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

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

Outcome 3 - Higher Education

DEEWR Question No.EW0411_12

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

Question

Source Of Vacancy Data

I would be keen to know what the source is of the advice to the minister, in terms of where these vacancies come from, because self-evidently, of course, inquiring in the Sydney Morning Herald or the Age or the Australian for positions associated with anything to do with agriculture or horticulture would be an exercise wasted. Mr Griew: The department does conduct surveys of employers' recruitment experience and it does so around Australia, 26 regions in the last year. We will answer the question on notice, but it is unlikely we would be relying on capital city recruitment pages—

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 <http://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.