

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government

Budget Estimates 25 May 2011

Question: 11

Topic: Regional Skilled Migration Program

Asked By: Senator MACDONALD

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Ms Foster: A large number of our RDAs have identified growth as a priority for them. There is good interaction within communities about how to bring together strategies, as Mr Atkinson said, to encourage and support regional migration.

Senator IAN MACDONALD: Thank you for that. Could you just give me a summary of the RDAs' advice in this regard, which you just mentioned?

Ms Foster: Certainly.

Answer: Regional Development Australia committees promote the economic, social and environmental goals of their regions. The local RDA committee work closely with their local leaders and community to address issues of importance for their particular region. The RDA's provide advice and input to local, state and the Commonwealth Government on a range of issues including in some areas the need for additional workers and skills to support regional growth strategies