



**Australian Government**  
**Department of Employment and  
Workplace Relations**

**National Office**

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John Carter  
Committee Secretary  
Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Mr Carter

On 8 December 2005, Senator Gavin Marshall, Chair of the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee wrote to the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Hon Kevin Andrews MP, inviting the Department of Employment and Workplace relations (DEWR) to make a submission to the Senate References Committee Inquiry into Pacific Region Seasonal Contract Labour.

To this end, attached for your information and consideration is the DEWR submission. The submission provides information on the regional labour market and the extent to which migration arrangements and Government initiatives (such as the Harvest Trail and the Welfare to Work reforms) can be used to meet the seasonal labour needs of Australian agricultural and horticultural industries.

DEWR would welcome the opportunity to discuss further with the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education References Committee issued raised in this submission.

The contact officers are Ivan Neville (Assistant Secretary, Labour Supply and Skills Branch, telephone (02) 6121 6720 and [ivan.neville@dewr.gov.au](mailto:ivan.neville@dewr.gov.au)) and Jane Press (Director, Migration Policy and Analysis Section, telephone (02) 6121 6703 and [jane.press@dewr.gov.au](mailto:jane.press@dewr.gov.au)).

Yours sincerely

Ivan Neville  
Assistant Secretary  
Labour Supply and Skills Branch  
17 March 2006