

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0790_15

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

Cleaning Services Guidelines

In relation to the Cleaning Services Guidelines:

- 1) How many contracts did the Guidelines apply to?
- 2) How many contracts used Clean Start Agreements prior to the commencement of the guidelines?
- 3) Which Minister introduced the most recent Guidelines?
- 4) How do the current rates interact with the Enterprise Bargaining Agreements?

Answer

- 1) Since the commencement of the *Commonwealth Cleaning Services Guidelines* (the Guidelines) on 1 January 2012, the Guidelines have applied to about 25 to 30 cleaning services contracts. The Guidelines only apply to the cleaning of Australian Government offices located in certain central business district locations in eight capital cities. They only apply where the Australian Government owns the building or, in leased buildings, directly contracts with the cleaning company.
- 2) Just prior to the introduction of the Guidelines, Australian Government agencies had executed at least 60 cleaning services contracts with companies that engage their employees under a United Voice Clean Start Agreement.
- 3) The Hon. Bill Shorten MP, the then Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, introduced the most recent version of the Guidelines on 1 July 2012.
- 4) The pay rates in the Guidelines mirror the pay rates specified in the United Voice Clean Start Agreement. To comply with the Guidelines, any Enterprise Bargaining Agreement or other employment arrangement would need to ensure pay rates were not below those specified in the Guidelines.