

Senate Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry, Tourism and Resources Portfolio
Additional Estimates 2005-2006, 16 February 2006

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY, TOURISM AND RESOURCES
TOPIC: IMPACT OF INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS CHANGES ON SMALL BUSINESS
REFERENCE: WRITTEN QUESTIONS

QUESTION No.AI-91

Senator Campbell asked:

Is the Department aware of concerns in the small business sector about what the IR changes mean for them?

ANSWER

A targeted awareness and education campaign will be delivered to ensure that small business operators are aware of the Work Choices reforms and what they mean for them.

QUESTION No.AI-92

Senator Campbell asked:

Has the Department been contacted through stakeholders, about the confusion the IR changes are causing within small business?

ANSWER

Representations received by the Department from small businesses and industry associations have generally been supportive of the Work Choices changes and have not focussed on confusion about the changes.

QUESTION No.AI-93

Senator Campbell asked:

Is the Department aware of figures in the latest quarterly MYOB Australian Small Business Survey, showing the IR changes and small business confusion has seen hiring intentions fall by 11 per cent?

ANSWER

Yes, the Department is aware of the latest MYOB Australian Small Business Survey. Other recent surveys have also explored this aspect of the Work Choices reforms. The February 2006 Sensis Business Index – Small & Medium Enterprises found that ‘Of those small businesses intending to make changes as a result of the reforms, they are most likely to do this by hiring more staff’.