

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates 20-21 February 2008

Question: aet 37

Topic: Australia's Basic Minimum Wage

Hansard Page: E109

Senator COONAN asked:

Mr Tune—At the time Australia was the highest. My recollection is that it is not any more.

Senator COONAN—This is the basic minimum wage?

Mr Tune—Yes, basic minimum wage relative to median earnings. It is a measure that is often used in the OECD and places like that. We are either the first or second now, anyway. We are not—

Senator COONAN—Would you mind just taking that on notice and letting me know?

Mr Tune—Certainly.

Answer:

Data from the OECD Employment outlook 2006 publication shows Australia to have the second highest ratio of minimum wages to median wages, compared to all other OECD countries.