

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Additional Estimates – 25–26 February 2009

Question: aet 60

Topic: Superannuation Default Funds

Hansard Page: E96 (25 February 2009)

Senator BUSHBY asked:

Senator BUSHBY—If you have 100 employees and the union representation in the workplace agrees with the employers that they want to have a different one for those 70-odd employees who may not choose directly, there is no scope for that under the way it is at the moment? The only thing they can do is go around to every employee and say—

Senator Sherry—I would need to refresh my knowledge on what the proposed industrial instruments that run alongside an award are to be. There may be a capacity to enter into other arrangements regarding a default fund, but I am frankly not across the new proposed acts. There may be some capacity there, but I cannot be sure.

Senator BUSHBY—Can you take that on notice?

Senator Sherry—Yes, I will.

Answer:

Under the Fair Work Bill 2008 (which is due to receive Royal Assent in April 2009), employers and employees are free to agree upon a different default fund to those set in the modern award in any enterprise agreement that they make.