

Senate Economics Legislation Committee

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 31 May to 2 June 2005

Question: Bud 74

Topic: ABS – Press Release 6359.0

Hansard Page: E9

Senator Sherry asked:

Senator SHERRY—Also, document 6359.0 indicates that one in four people are working 45 hours a week or more. One in four, 24 per cent of the 9.6 million employed persons in Australia aged 15 years and over, in November 2004 worked for 45 hours or more in their main job, according to the survey results. How does that compare historically, say, with 10, 20, 30 years ago? Is this again a trend up?

Mr Trewin—Perhaps I should get a data series for you, because I am going on memory a little. I think there has been a slight trend up over the last decade. The more rapid increase was perhaps a little earlier than that. That is my recollection. It was a little bit different to the public perception. We can drag those figures out for you.

Senator SHERRY—Okay.

Answer:

In June 1984, 19% of all employed people worked 45 hours or more in the reference week of the Labour Force Survey. In June 1994, the proportion of all employed people who worked 45 hours or more had increased to 27%, but fell slightly to 26% in June 2004.