

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates 3-5 June 2008

Question: bet 77

Topic: Workplace Relations Policy

Hansard Page: E44

Senator Bushby asked:

Senator BUSHBY—I am very happy to do that. What economic analysis or modelling has been provided to the government on its workplace relations policies to assess the likely impact on unemployment and employment? Do you want to go?

Dr Henry—Yes. Given that you have asked the question, I think I do want to go.

Senator Sherry—That is what I was trying to work out.

Dr Henry—This is the signalling system that we worked out beforehand. Because you are talking about advice that may or may not have been provided to the Treasurer, I would seek the committee's indulgence to consult the Treasurer on what details of that advice he might want to make available.

Senator Sherry—I am happy to take it on notice and seek such a request from the Treasurer.

Answer:

Treasury routinely provides policy advice to government on the potential economic impacts of different policy options. However, Treasury has not modelled, or commissioned modelling, that identifies economic effects specifically attributable to the Government's workplace relations changes.