

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates, 2 June – 4 June 2009

Question: bet 19

Topic: Retirement Age - Tradepersons

Hansard Page: Written

Senator Xenophon asked:

1. Has Treasury commissioned any analysis or research on the physical impacts on tradespersons and manual labourers, of lifting the retirement age from 65 to 67?
2. If so, how was this analysis or research conducted?
3. What is the best available estimate of the number of tradespersons or manual labourers, broken down by state, who now face retirement at 67 rather than 65?

Answer:

1.&2. Treasury has not commissioned any such research. Research of this nature would be complicated by data availability.

3. Census data provides information on the occupations of Australian residents. The data lists 474 occupation categories. While some of the categories are identified as labourers, these categories are not exhaustive of all occupations that require some degree of physical work.

The task is further complicated by the fact that individual occupation categories may contain a broad distribution of job descriptions and physical requirements. As a consequence, the decision to include or exclude certain occupation categories may be purely subjective and may not accurately reflect the number of workers employed in physically demanding positions.