

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2004-2005 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
17 FEBRUARY 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.2: Workplace relations legislation development

Question Number: W180-05

Question:

Senator Collins asked at *Hansard* page 24, 26:

Could the Department advise how many pieces of legislation has the Government announced, or are public knowledge, but which are not presently on the public list?

Answer:

As at 9 March 2004 the Government had introduced nine Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio Bills in the 41st Parliament. These are set out in the following table:

No	Title of Bill or Act	Introduction or commencement
1	<i>Workplace Relations Amendment (Agreement Validation) Act 2004</i>	Commenced 15/12/04
2	Workplace Relations Amendment (Fair Dismissal Reform) Bill 2004	Introduced 02/12/04
3	Workplace Relations Amendment (Right of Entry) Bill 2004	Introduced 02/12/04
4	Workplace Relations Amendment (Small Business Employment Protection) Bill 2004	Introduced 08/12/04
5	Workplace Relations Amendment (Extended Prohibition of Compulsory Union Fees) Bill 2005	Introduced 09/02/05
6	Building and Construction Industry Improvement Bill 2005	Introduced 09/03/05
7	Building and Construction Industry Improvement (Consequential and Transitional) Bill 2005	Introduced 09/03/05
8	Workplace Relations Amendment (Better Bargaining) Bill 2005	Introduced 09/03/05
9	Occupational Health and Safety (Commonwealth Employment) Amendment (Promoting Safer Workplaces) Bill 2005	Introduced 09/03/05

Public comments on Workplace Relations legislation

Independent Contractors Act

The Government's 2004 election policies included a commitment to create a new Independent Contractors Act to enshrine and protect the status of independent contractors and encourage independent contracting as a wholly legitimate form of work. The Government is consulting on the form and substance of the Bill.

Termination of Employment Bill

In a speech on 22 October 2004 the Minister indicated that a Termination of Employment Bill to effectively include 85% of employees in a national framework could provide a model for an incremental approach to legislative reform. On 17 November 2004, in a doorstep interview at Parliament House, the Minister said this Bill would be introduced in 2005.