

**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 workplaces
Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis
Outputs 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W183-05

Question:

Senator Collins asked at *Hansard* page 27:

Could the Department provide information on the nature of consultation to date in relation to the Government's reform agenda:

- (a) has the Department facilitated any consultative forums?
- (b) have there been meetings with employers or employer groups, unions, or union groups? If so, how many organisations have been involved, and what is the nature of these organisations?
- (c) what level of resourcing has been attached?

Answer:

- (a) No.
- (b) The department does not have access to meeting and consultations that the Minister has undertaken on workplace relations reform. This is a question more appropriately directed to the Minister.

The Minister publicly announced in November 2004 that he would consider any suggestions put to him regarding reform of the federal workplace relations system. He was quoted in the *Australian* of 17 November 2004 as saying:

“Over the next two or three months I will be consulting with as many people and organisations as possible as to what sort of industrial relations system we want to see in Australia in the next four or five years. My door is open. We will be looking at what we want to achieve over the next four or five years in terms of the framework for industrial relations in Australia and I will be listening to every point of view that is presented to me.”

The Minister also stated in an interview on ABC Radio on 23 December 2004 that he would consult widely with business groups, the ACTU and others who might want to comment on changes to the system.

- (c) Not applicable.