

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

**2005-2006 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
16 FEBRUARY 2006
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: 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W708-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

During the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Legislative Committee DEWR noted that ‘the government’s position in relation to paid maternity leave is that it already has been successfully negotiated in agreements’. (Hansard, 18/11/05, p22). What percentage of women currently have access to paid maternity leave? What is the average amount or length (in weeks) of this paid maternity leave?

Answer:

According to the Department’s Workplace Agreement Database (WAD) data for the December 2005 quarter, 46.1 per cent of women under federal certified agreements are covered by agreements with paid maternity leave provisions.

Paid maternity leave entitlements in federal certified agreements vary from 2 days leave at full pay to 36 weeks on full pay. The majority of agreements with paid maternity leave provisions provide 6 weeks on full pay.