

**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 workplaces**

**Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis**

**Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice**

**Question Number: W716-06**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

The Award Review Taskforce is supported by a Secretariat located within the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (Award rationalisation discussion paper, para 1.9; Rationalisation of award wage and classification structures, para 1.9)

- a) How many staff are employed in the Secretariat?
- b) What is the budget for the Secretariat?
- c) Did the Secretariat prepare the discussion papers?
- d) Where did the Secretariat staff come from immediately prior to working in the Secretariat?
- e) Will DEWR have additional input into the outcome of the consultation process?
- f) What input did the peak employer bodies (Aust Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Australian Industry Group, Business Council of Aust) have prior to the dissemination of the discussion papers?

**Answer:**

- a) As at 6 March 2006, there were 20 staff employed in the Secretariat.
- b) \$7.364 million in 2005-06 and a further \$1.655 million in 2006-07.
- c) The Secretariat assisted the Chair in preparing the discussion papers.
- d) The majority of staff were existing departmental staff or were appointed as a result of a merit selection process. Some additional staff have also been seconded from the Australian Industrial Registry.
- e) The Secretariat is supporting the Chair in his work on the consultation process.
- f) None.