

**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:** Corporate

**Question Number:** W756-06

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

After a staff member has reached agreement with the DEWR negotiator, does the agreement proceed straight to lodgement with the OEA, or is there a third party outside of the negotiation process that reviews and/or approves the agreement? What happens if the third party does not endorse the agreement? How long does this process take, both for existing and new employees?

**Answer:**

- a) The remuneration package negotiated by the employee and his or her manager is indicative until approved by the Remuneration Subcommittee (RSC).
- b) If the RSC does not approve the agreement, it is referred back to the employee's manager for further negotiation, often with commentary. The time taken to complete the process varies.
- c) The RSC meets every two weeks, so the time taken to approve indicative remuneration packages can take up to about two and one half weeks, including the period of lodgement with the RSC.