

**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: W759-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

At page 7 of the DEWR AWA handbook it outlines provisions that would 'normally apply' for consultation on changes to AWA arrangements. The extent of this consultation involves the posting of information on the intranet and provision of information to Group and State Managers. How many changes have been made to the 'PAS, AWA guides and Handbook' in the past 2 years? Please detail these changes. Please table any written notifications that have been provided to Group and State Managers during the past 2 years, and details of consultations that these managers have had with their staff about these changes. Have there been any occasions where the consultation provisions that 'would normally apply' have not applied? If so, please detail these instances and the reasons why the normal process did not apply.

Answer:

The consultation requirements outlined in the DEWR AWA Handbook are minimum requirements, and in practice, consultation with employees is broader than the minimum. With regard to the changes that have been made to the PAS, AWA guides and Handbook, to provide the information requested would involve an unreasonable diversion of DEWR resources.