

**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

OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ADVOCATE

Question Number: W787-06

Question:

Senator Marshall asked at *Hansard* page 108:

Please refer to your response to QoN W550-06 (restructure of AWA Operations). Now that the WorkChoices legislation has been passed, please outline your planned restructure or detail any restructure that has already taken place within your office. Please provide a copy of the organisational chart with levels of responsibility and staff attached.

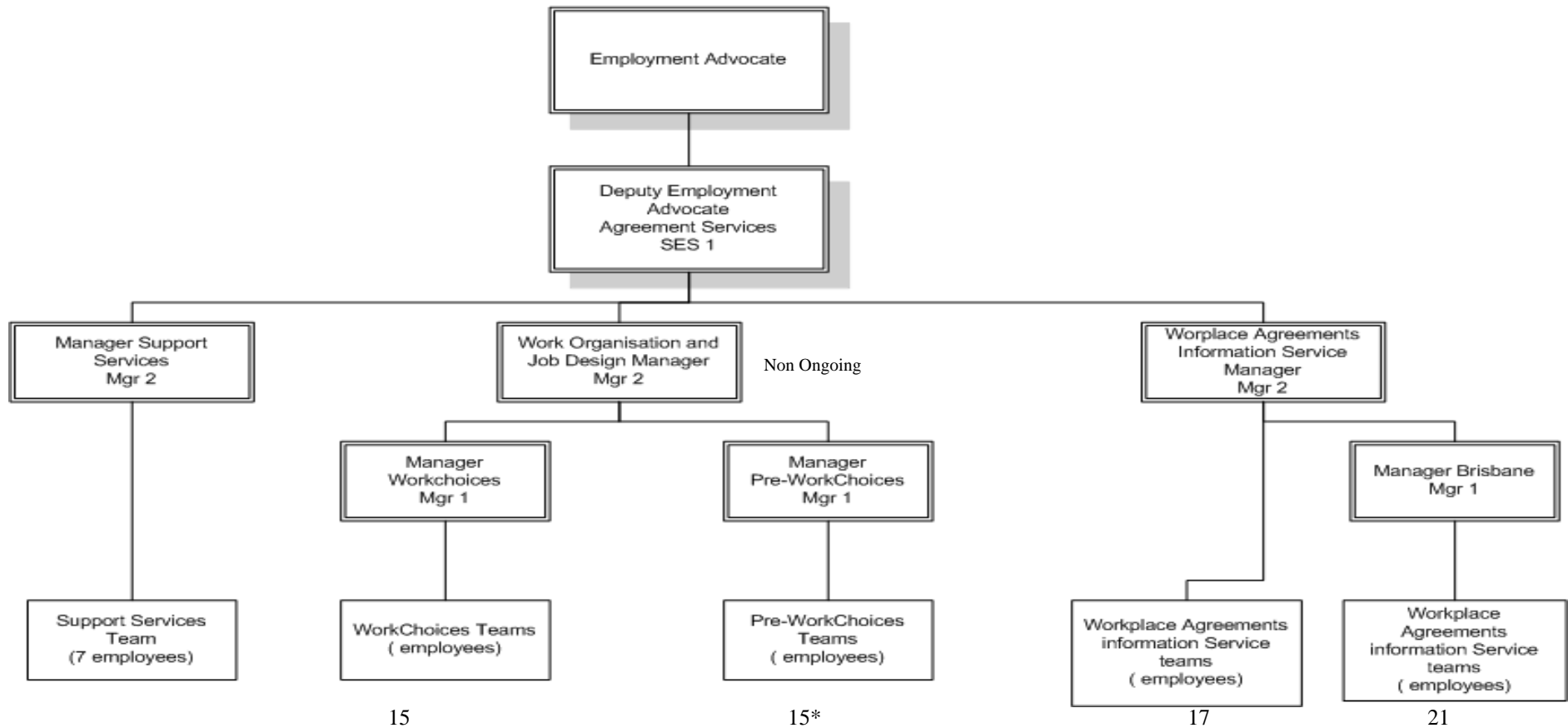
Answer:

The OEA has begun the restructuring of the AWA Operations Unit (now known as Agreement Services) in preparation for the implementation of the WorkChoices legislation. The restructure reflects three broad responsibilities of this part of the OEA:

1. Providing an information service to employees, employers and their representatives, which the OEA has named **Workplace Agreements Information Service**. This Service replaces and greatly expands on the OEA's former National Telephone Advisory Service.
2. Providing a lodgement service for workplace agreements lodged under the new legislation. This service will be expected to grow over time, as more employers and employees create agreements under the new legislation.
3. Completing the processing of agreements lodged under the former legislation. This service will progressively wind up, although the timing will depend on the number of agreements lodged before the implementation of the new legislation.

An organisational chart for Agreement Services is attached. Please note that staff in the WorkChoices and Pre-WorkChoices teams will assist in the Workplace Agreements Information Service during peak times.

Office of the Employment Advocate Agreement Services



* is expected to gradually reduce to zero as Pre Reform work is completed. People will be redeployed to WorkChoices Teams and or Workplace Agreements Information Service, as WorkChoices demand increases in line with expectations.