

## EDUCATION, SCIENCE AND TRAINING

### SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE 2006-2007 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING

**Outcome:** 2  
**Output Group:** 2.4 - Funding for Higher Education

#### DEST Question No. E793\_07

Senator Carr provided in writing.

#### Question:

1. In answer to E679\_07, the Department said that it did not keep data on the overall number of employees on AWAs in the higher education sector.
2. Given that the Government's intention is to maximise the number of university staff on AWAs, why is this data not collected? Are there plans to collect it? When will it be available?
3. When this data is available, can you provide it?

#### Answer:

*AWA data – higher education sector*

1. The Office of the Employment Advocate (OEA) has agency responsibility for AWA data collection.
2. The Government's policy through HEWRR 1 is to provide university staff with genuine choice and flexibility in agreement making. Whether an employee chooses to take up an AWA or another industrial instrument is a matter for each employee.

The OEA has advised the department that, with the introduction of WorkChoices in March 2006, it has modified its data collection methodology and no longer collect data from employers lodging workplace agreements at below the Divisional Level. This means that 'higher education' AWA data cannot be disaggregated from general 'education' data in the OEA database.

3. At the end of 2006, based on a one-off manual count of agreements conducted by the OEA, almost 70,000 university employees were covered by a WorkChoices agreement and, of those, 3% were on AWAs.