

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2006-2007 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
15 FEBRUARY 2007
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W1229-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Real wages and gender pay gap a) With regards to W789-07, a new calculation for real wages growth of 17.9 per cent was provided to September 2006. On whose instruction was this calculated, given that this calculation was not necessary to respond to the questions?

b) Why was the decision made to calculate this amount, but not the real wage growth (the same calculation) for the lowest paid quintile (W791-07)?

Answer:

a) The real wages growth figure of 17.9 per cent up to the September quarter 2006 was included to provide the most up-to-date information.

b) The quarterly ABS *Australian National Accounts* (Cat. No. 5206.0) publication does not present wage data by quintiles. Accordingly, real wage growth for the lowest paid quintile cannot be calculated.

Estimated cost: Based on the FOI calculator it has taken approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes at an estimated cost of \$34 to prepare this answer.