

**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: W1230-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

**Real wages and gender pay gap** a) With regards to W791-07, why is the provision of calculations on real wage growth for the lowest quintile considered to be an unreasonable diversion of the Department's resources, given that DEWR has been able to provide these calculations for average earnings?

b) Has the Prime Minister, the Minister for Workplace Relations or anyone on their behalf ever requested that the calculations be done for average earnings?

c) If not, why has DEWR decided to perform these calculations for average earnings but not for the low paid?

d) On what basis was the decision made to perform these calculations and by whom?

**Answer:**

a) Real wage growth is calculated using data from the quarterly *ABS Australian National Accounts* publication. Real wage growth for the lowest quintile cannot be calculated as this publication does not present wage data by quintiles.

b) No.

c) See (a).

d) The real wage growth calculations are used to brief the Minister on wages developments.

**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.