

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2007-08 ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome **9**

DEEWR Question No. EW16_08

Senator Stott Despoja provided in writing.

Question

Gender Pay Gap

Will the Government consider the establishment of a pay equity tribunal within its proposed new Industrial Relations system, in light of reports that women continue to trail their male counterparts in the area of pay equity?

Answer

The Australian Government is committed to ensuring equality in the workplace through a variety of measures, including strengthening protections that have been eroded under the previous Government.

On 1 April 2008 the Government issued an award modernisation request to the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC) which includes the requirement that the AIRC must promote the principle of equal remuneration for work of equal value.

The Government will consider the establishment of a pay equity tribunal in the context of the development of its substantive workplace relations reforms.