

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES 2008-09**

Outcome/Agency: 9

DEEWR Question No. EW1000_09

Senator Siewert provided in writing:

Question

Secret ballots

Since the introduction of secret ballots, how many have resulted in a 'no' vote against taking any industrial action at all?

Answer

Based on the results of every ballot published by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission on its website, there have been 40 'no' votes against taking any industrial action at all out of 650 ballots since the introduction of protected action ballots on 27 March 2006. This represents approximately 6.15% of secret ballots which resulted in a 'no' vote.

36 of the 'no' votes were the result of insufficient turnout.

4 of the 'no' votes were the result of lack of support for the industrial action.

This answer is current as of 25 March 2009.