

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

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

**Outcome/Agency**        **9**

**DEEWR Question No. EW1198\_09**

Senator Fisher asked on 26 February 2009, EEWHR Hansard page 64.

**Question**

*General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme*

Senator FISHER—What would have been the response, for example, to the calls in the news today from Dave Oliver, National Secretary of the Australian Manufacturing Workers Union, urging the federal government to guarantee redundant workers full entitlements in the wake of job cuts at Pacific Brands and the drivetrain gearbox factory? The union wants the federal government's General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme expanded to provide 100 per cent of entitlements.

CHAIR—That question can be directed to the minister but not to the officer.

Senator FISHER—Minister?

Senator McLucas—I will seek some advice on that and come back to you if there is anything further that the minister would like to add.

Senator FISHER—Thank you. Is the government considering the budgetary consequences of increased calls like this from the union movement?

Senator McLucas—I cannot answer that question, Senator Fisher. I cannot answer that question here and now. If there is any further information that the minister would like to provide to the committee I am sure she will provide it.

Senator FISHER—Thank you, Minister. Is the government considering the prospect of the likelihood of increased calls for this sort of provision, bearing in mind the global financial situation?

CHAIR—Senator, I think that question has already been answered.

Senator FISHER—Will officers take that question on notice because they do not know? I hope so.

CHAIR—This minister does not know. We will ask the minister whether any more can be added.

**Answer**

The General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS) is a safety net scheme. The Government is not considering expanding GEERS beyond the safety net scope of the Scheme.