

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2009-2010

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0929_10

Senator Cash provided in writing.

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)

Question 1

During the 2008/2009 financial year the Department advised that 15,753 claims had been received. Please provide a current figure?

Answer

Over the period 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010, the Department received 10,947 claims for GEERS assistance.

Question 2

Please provide an updated list indicating from what sectors these claims have originated?

Answer

The table below lists the number of GEERS claims received by industry sector over the period 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010.

Industry Sector *	Number of GEERS claims received 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010 (as a percentage of the total number of claims)
Accommodation Cafes and Restaurants	400 (3.7%)
Agriculture Forestry and Fishing	147 (1.3%)
Communication Services	286 (2.6%)
Construction	1544 (14.1%)
Cultural and Recreational Services	416 (3.8%)
Education	867 (7.9%)
Electricity Gas and Water Supply	59 (0.5%)
Finance and Insurance	184 (1.7%)
Government Administration and Defence	17 (0.2%)
Health and Community Services	501 (4.6%)
Manufacturing	2299 (21%)
Mining	236 (2.2%)
Personal and Other Services	417 (3.8%)
Property and Business Services	1337 (12.2%)
Retail Trade	1246 (11.4%)
Transport and Storage	597 (5.5%)
Wholesale Trade	394 (3.6%)
Total number of claims received	10947

* Based on Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)

Question 3

What is the amount of the average claim paid out by GEERS?

Answer

Over the period 1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010, the average amount of GEERS assistance paid for a claim was \$10,036.76

Question 4

What is the current number of staff working on the processing of GEERS claims and how does this compare to 6 months ago?

Answer

As at 31 January 2010, 88 staff were employed in the Employee Entitlements Branch, of which approximately 67* staff were directly involved in the assessment of GEERS claims. This compares to 78 staff as at 31 July 2009, of which 57* staff were directly involved in the assessment of GEERS claims.

*Staff involved in the initial assessment, review and appeal of GEERS claims.