

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW1053_10

Senator Collins asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 140.

Question

ACCESS ECONOMIC SURVEY

Senator JACINTA COLLINS—.... how were they selected? So if we could have a broader description of the methodology, that would be helpful. [Access Economics survey sent to businesses] Mr Roddam—We can take that on notice.

Answer

The rationale for conducting the survey for the Access Economics *Economic Analysis of a Single National Workplace Relations System for the Private Sector* report (the report) is outlined on page 8 of the report which states:

*“The cost [initial cost to businesses] was estimated through a survey of a sample of trading corporations who switched from a State industrial relations scheme to the national system in 2006 following the Workplace Relations Amendment 2005. The assumption is that those employers currently in the State system would face similar costs and benefits to joining the national system as the interviewed companies experienced in 2006”.*¹

The methodology used to select businesses in the survey is outlined in the footnote on page 9 which states:

“Respondents were recruited from a list of company contacts generated from a previous workplace survey for DEEWR regarding regulatory harmonization [of Occupational Health and Safety] (Access Economics, 2009).

A percentage breakdown of the survey respondents by business size is provided in Chart 3.1 of the report. In terms of the actual number of respondents by business size, the Department has received advice that of the 30 respondents in the survey, 4 respondents had up to 15 employees, 6 respondents had up to 50 employees, 12 respondents had up to 500 employees, 4 respondents had up to 1 500 employees and 4 respondents had more than 1 500 employees.

¹ Access Economics *Economic Analysis of a Single National Workplace Relations System for the Private Sector*, 18 December 2009, page 8.