

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Agency - Fair Work Australia**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0744\_11**

**Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 52.**

**Question**

**Annual wage review**

Senator ABETZ—All right. Can you take that on notice for us to advise, in the broad and in particular with the modern awards and expense-related allowances, whether those particular draft determinations were as a result of a request being made or from Fair Work Australia's own volition, if I can use that term? Mr Giudice—I will have to look at it, Senator. I am just not sure whether there were things said during the conduct of the review that might have led to it or not, so I will have to look at it all.

Senator ABETZ—Yes, I understand that. So if it was by application or request, or if it was from Fair Work Australia's own volition, I would be interested if you could let me know.

**Answer**

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.

The Australian Industry Group (Ai Group) and the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) sought an opportunity to comment on draft variations to modern awards prior to finalisation in their March 2010 submissions. The issue of the duration of any consultations on drafts was also raised in consultations on 18 May 2010 with Ai Group and ACCI.

The Annual Wage Review 2009–10 (C2010/1) Decision stated:

[424] The outcome of the review in relation to modern award minimum wages is that from the first full pay period on or after 1 July 2010 minimum wages are increased by \$26 per week and 69 cents per hour (on the basis of a 38 hour week). The increase applies to minimum wages for junior employees, employees to whom training arrangements apply and employees with a disability and to piece rates through the operation of the methods applying to the calculation of those wages. The determinations necessary to give effect to the increase in modern awards will be made available in draft form shortly after this decision is announced. Determinations varying the modern awards will be made as soon as practicable and the modern awards including the varied wage rates will be published as required by s.292 of the Fair Work Act. [2010] FWA FB 4000

Fair Work Australia staff prepared draft determinations varying modern award

minimum rates for the annual wage review decision and these were made available on the Draft determinations page of the Fair Work Australia Annual Wage Review 2009–10 website. The period for suggested amendments closed on 16 June 2010.

Fair Work Australia staff also prepared draft determinations adjusting expense-related allowances in modern awards for the applicable CPI index figure. These drafts were made available on the Research page of the Fair Work Australia award modernisation website.