

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0981_12

Senator Bushby provided in writing.

Question

Ethical Clothing Australia firms

What number of firms has the Government determined need to be accredited for the initiative to be a success from its point of view? Given that answer, at what time does the Department believe there will be full compliance within the industry with Ethical Clothing Australia?

Answer

Ethical Clothing Australia (ECA) is a joint business-union initiative and accreditation is voluntary. As accreditation is voluntary no targets have been set for levels of accreditation, though clearly as more businesses are accredited, the levels of compliance are likely to increase. The department measures success of the funding it provides to ECA based on performance against targets as set out in the annual plans which the ECA submit to the department. ECA has met its agreed performance targets.

The work of ECA complements the ongoing work of a number of government agencies in promoting compliance with awards and legislative requirements such as superannuation, workers compensation and occupational health and safety in the textile, clothing and footwear industry.