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Budget Estimates 2004-2005 31 May – 1-3 June 2004

Employment and Workplace Relations portfolio

QoN No	Outcome/ Agency	Hansard page no.	Senator	Subject
Office of the Employment Advocate – 31 May 2004				
W001-05	OEA	3	Wong	Please provide the results from the sample AWA survey
W002-05	OEA	3	Wong	Could you please advise the Committee what proportion of AWAs contain the following provisions: (a) paid maternity leave (b) the right to request part-time work by an employee (c) job sharing (d) home based work (e) family responsibilities (f) paid family leave (g) unpaid family leave What time period does this analysis cover?
W003-05	OEA	3	Wong	What was the cost of the ACIRRT contract commissioned to do a coding exercise of sample AWAs?
W004-05	OEA	5	Wong	Of the \$300,000 allocated for additional property costs to accommodate additional staff within the OEA, how much was the fit out and how much was the additional rent?
W005-05	OEA	7	Wong	Can the OEA provide representative AWAs, with names deleted, that apply to OEA staff?
W006-05	OEA	Written	Wong	One of the industry partners of the Office of the Employment is Small Business Union Pty Ltd. (a) How much money is provided to this organisation? (b) What is the nature of this organisation? (c) Does this organisation have members? What is the nature of these members?
Cross Portfolio/Corporate – Monday 31 May 2004				
W007-05	Corp	16	Wong	How many departmental laptop computers have been lost or stolen in the past year?
W008-05	Corp	16	Wong	How many people attended the Executive Leadership program?
W009-05	Corp	16	Wong	Do you have a total value for the consultancy for the Executive Leadership program?
W010-05	Corp	17	Wong	What is the total number of days training the executive leadership program contract encompasses?
W011-05	Corp	17	Wong	What is the exact amount of the consultant's contract for the SES Futures Forum?
W012-05	Corp	18	Wong	Further to answer to question W344-04 regarding management retreats and training could the department please provide a break-up of what is 'other' and what is the consultant fee?
W013-05	Corp	61	Wong	Please provide a breakdown of the costs in the accommodation and meals component for the SES Manly forum.
W014-05	Corp	61	Wong	What is the name of the neighbouring restaurant dined at on one of the evenings of the SES Manly forum? And what was the cost?
W015-05	Corp	61	Wong	Please provide a more detailed breakdown of the two executive leadership forum expenditures. In particular please carve out the consultant fees from the "other" category.
Cross Portfolio/Corporate - Tuesday 1 June 2004				
W016-05	FM	27/28	Cook	Can the department provide a copy of the practical guide on the spending of public moneys?
W017-05	FM	42	Marshall	Are there guidelines for the use of credit cards (in particular how often officers with a departmental credit card can draw down cash and whether there is a limit)? (a) Is there a different limit depending on the officer?

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				(b) Can you tell me how many instances cash has been drawn down?
				Outcome 1 – 31 May 2004
W018-05	1	21	Campbell	Can the department give the committee projected data for 2004-05 and 2005-06 of the number of job seekers in the age group 15 to 19 years old who would be assessed as being highly disadvantaged
W019-05	1	27	Barnett	Can the department provide a state and territory breakdown on job placement figures for the period December 2003 to March 2004
W020-05	1	28	Webber	Can the department provide the number of casual, seasonal and temporary job outcomes for each program in the Job Network?
W021-05	1	29	Campbell	Please provide: (a) a graph layout of where the job placement sites are located (b) a graph layout of the providers that are providing the full suite of programs and job placement only
W022-05	1	30	Campbell	How many job placements are dual or multiple placements?
W023-05	1	31	Campbell	What is the breakdown of the types of jobs that were obtained for persons who were unemployed for less than three months?
W024-05	1	34	Campbell	What is the highest amount that has been paid for a wage subsidy?
W025-05	1	34	Campbell	How many of the 5,000 people on a wage subsidy have been employed for 13 weeks or more?
W026-05	1	36	Campbell	How many Job network members have used the job seeker account to contract to themselves?
W027-05	1	37	Campbell	Where job seekers have had the job seeker account drawn on by the provider, what percentage of those job seekers have been successful in finding employment, particularly 13 weeks or more?
W028-05	1	37	Campbell	How many individuals have gone through Work for the Dole more than once, can a breakdown be provided into age and regional area?
W029-05	1	39	Campbell	Can the department provide an update of the forwarded estimates for outcome 1 for 2003/04 to 2007/08
W030-05	1	41	Campbell	Can the department provide for each of the labour market assistance programs by age, duration on income support, gender and equity groups? Can you also give us the information by state and region and by postcode. The following: (a) percentage employed full time (b) percentage employed part time (c) percentage employed casual, temporary and seasonal (d) percentage employed total (e) percentage not in the labour force (f) percentage receiving further assistance by the type of assistance (g) percentage in education and training (h) number of new entrants to the program; and (i) number of excess.
W031-05	1	42	Campbell	How many job network sites were operating in the southern suburbs of Adelaide under ESC2.
W032-05	1	45	Campbell	In regards to the Mitsubishi closures (a) how many calls have been made to the assistance hotline? (b) the average waiting time on the hotline? (c) how many people are working on the hotline? (d) when was the hotline was actually available?
W033-05	1	47	Webber	What is estimated to be the flow-in into the Job Network by job seekers over the next four years by age and gender?
W034-05	1	47	Webber	How many job seekers, broken down by age and gender have been in the Job Network for more than two years?
W035-05	1	47	Webber	How many Job Network sites have changed hands or management since 1 July 2003?
W036-05	1	50	Campbell	How many people have gained employment off CDEP, through projects funded under STEP as part of the Indigenous Arts Strategy, in the Northern Territory?
W037-05	1	51	Campbell	What percentage of STEP projects fall into the category of: (a) \$1 million or less? (b) \$3 million or less?
W038-05	1	52	Campbell	Please provide any up-to-date figures for the Northern Territory on the number of

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				Indigenous job seekers assisted (intensive assistance and wage assistance) in the different NT centres and by program?
W039-05	1	52/53	Campbell	Of the 21,944 Indigenous participants on the STEP project what proportion of them were from the corporate leaders project?
W040-05	1	53	Campbell	Is there a list of the 185 organisations that have received funding under the Indigenous small business fund program available with the amounts for 2002-2003.
W041-05	1	53	Webber	How many people that went through the Transition to Work program in each year were: (a) on income support (b) what kind of income support
W042-05	1	53	Webber	Please provide the committee with the employment outcomes – full time, part-time, as well as casual jobs - for each year that the Transition to Work program has been in operation and whether these clients are on income support.
W043-05	1	54	Webber	Please provide the source of Transition to Work recipients – are there people referred to Transition to Work by FaCS through the JET program, is there a relationship?
W044-05	1	58	Barnett	Please provide a state by state breakdown on the 67,000 people involved Australia wide in the Work for the Dole program.
W045-05	1	58	Barnett	Please expand/provide details of those surveys carried out on the level of satisfaction of Work for the Dole participants.
W046-05	1	Written	Webber	Please advise the Committee how many Work for the Dole Projects have been undertaken in the Yanchep area of Western Australia? (a) How many of those projects have operated on the former Defence Department Firing range? (b) What investigation into possible risk was undertaken? (c) Who undertook that investigation? (d) Were any of the participants on the project(s) advised that they would be working on a former Defence Department Firing Range? (e) Are participants allowed to refuse to participate on a Work for the Dole project if they are concerned about their safety? (f) Did any of the participants actually refuse to be involved in a project in the Yanchep area? (g) Are you aware that the Western Australian Fire and Emergency Services Agency or FESA will not fight bushfires in the Yanchep area with ground personnel? (h) Why would it be alright to have a Work for the Dole Project operating in an area that FESA is not prepared to work in? (i) Does this mean that the Department has made an assessment that is at cross purposes with FESA?
W047-05	1	55	Campbell	Please provide a breakdown of the monthly figures under Job Network 3.
W048-05	1	55	Campbell	Please provide a breakdown of the 8,700 jobs including those who were: (a) casual for fewer than 13 weeks and on average how many hours per week; (b) casual for fewer than 26 weeks and on average how many hours per week; (c) part time for fewer than 13 weeks and the number of hours per week (d) part time for fewer than 26 weeks and the number of hours; (e) full time for fewer than 13 weeks; (f) full time for fewer than 26 weeks.
W049-05	1	55	Campbell	If available please provide a list of the industries these jobs were obtained in
W050-05	1	55	Campbell	How many of these job seekers were on wage subsidies?
W051-05	1	Written	Webber	The department is losing \$26 million this year and next year as part of the Centrelink announcement in the 2004-2005 Budget. (a) What is this \$26 million dollars for exactly? Will there be job losses in the department as a result of the shift in funding? (b) Is the funding measure compensation for costs incurred by Centrelink as a result of the rollout of the new Job Network contract? (e.g. overtime hours etc worked by Centrelink staff?
W052-05	1	Written	Webber	The budget papers on pg 37 refers to “the revised model will be introduced for services delivered by centrelink....” (a) What is this revised model?

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W053-05	1	57	Campbell	(b) What is different to the way Centrelink currently delivers its services?
				(c) How will the money from DEWR be spent exactly in this new model?
W054-05	1	58/59	Barnett	If the information is able to be obtained please provide by region where more mature age people are being placed into occupations where there are skills shortages.
W055-05	1	Written	Webber	Please provide details, if possible state by state, about job prospects for participants post Work for the Dole participation.
W056-05	1	Written	Webber	Can the department outline where the additional funding of \$4.6 million announced as part of the sugar reform in the 2004-2005 budget, will be allocated in Outcome 1?
				(a) Will all this funding be going only to the Job Network? If no, where else will it be going?
				(b) On what will this \$4.6 million be spent? Provide a detailed breakdown.
				(c) What type of assistance will be offered to sugar industry workers?
				(d) What level of training will be provided? Will it be nationally accredited?
				(e) Will those affected by the reform be able to access assistance before they lose their jobs?
				(f) How many workers are estimated to be assisted through this process?
W057-05	1	Written	Carr	Can the department outline where the additional funding of:
				(a) \$8.1 million announced as part of the humanitarian program in the 2004-2005 budget, will be allocated in Outcome 1?
				(b) \$2.5 million announced as part of the non-humanitarian program in the 2004-2005 budget, will be allocated in Outcome 1?
				(c) Will all this funding be going only to the Job Network? If no, where else will it be going?
				(d) On what will this \$8.1 million be spent? Provide a detailed breakdown.
				(e) What checks will be made that the money is spent only on refugees and migrant job seekers?
				What area of the department will design and manage the Labour Adjustment program (LAP) for Mitsubishi workers announced by the Government? What areas of government will administer the program?
W058-05	1	Written	Crossin	(a) Is the same area managing the textile, clothing and footwear LAP?
				(b) Will the department be running consultations/workshops with workers to determine what assistance is required in order to design the LAP?
				(c) Will the relevant union be involved in designing and administering the LAP?
				(d) What will be the key components of the program?
				(e) Will it include vocational training? If so, will this be undertaken as part of the existing programs? Which ones? If not, what new programs or subprograms will be created? Who will deliver the training? Will the Commonwealth directly purchase the training under tendering arrangements? Will the training be the responsibility of State TAFE or VET systems? How will it be funded and administered?
				(f) Will it include access to English language training?
				(g) Will workers be managed by case workers?
				(h) Will workers be required to approach the Department/case workers for assistance?
				(i) How was the \$10 million arrived at? Is there a standard dollar figure per worker calculation? How many people will be assisted through the program?
				(j) What is the number of jobs losses anticipated at Mitsubishi over the next year, two years and three years?
				(k) When will the first workers be able to access the program? When will the first workers be unemployed at Mitsubishi?
				(l) How long will the program run for?
				(m) Please provide a breakdown of planned expenditure under the program, by department, program and sub-program.
W058-05	1	Written	Crossin	Some \$12.1m was allocated to improve workforce participation by mature age workers. How much of this is actually for training programs and how much is for the “information campaign”?
Outcome 2 – 31 May 2003				

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W059-05	2	19	Wong	Can the department provide the costing of the series of advertisements planned to inform the public that the department will be conducting an audit of employee entitlements?
W060-05	2	63	Cook	The department briefed an official of the US administration on Australia's industrial relations laws. There was no direct contact with elected US congressmen/women however was there any direct contact with staff of elected congressmen or congresswomen?
W061-05	2	63	Cook	Can the Minister make available what the department told the Americans about how our laws work?
W062-05	2	64	Cook	In regards to the briefing of US government officials can the department provide what level or ranking the US officials held?
W063-05	2	65	Cook	In relation to the chapter on labour standards we settled on the US type of definitions and not the Australian. The US used language we would prefer not to use. That is language in respect of what particular issues?
W064-05	2	65/66	Cook	To what extent did the 1996 Workplace Relations Act draw on policy and documentation prepared by the then outgoing Labor government?
W065-05	2	68/69/71	Wong	In regard to intervention cases, please provide details and associated costs, additional to what has already been provided in the Question on Notice W394_04 from February 2004 hearing, for the current financial year including the \$495,000 expended to date?
W066-05	2	85	Wong	In relation to QoN W413_04 the department advised that there was a complete contracting out of the inquiry and compliance services in relation to Queensland, Tasmania, Western Australia and South Australia. Can the department please provide a copy of the contract?
W067-05	2	86	Wong	Senator Wong requested a copy of the departmental policy guide that applies in the Office of Workplace Services and to the contracted states which sets out criteria against which the department judges each possible litigation matter.
W068-05	2	89	Wong	Can the department advise how many times a Commonwealth officer attends a court as an amicus curiae or on whatever basis it is that the department attends the small claims court or magistrates court.
W069-05	2	89	Wong	Can the department advise how much money is being saved as a result of not renewing the lease in the Geelong office of the Office of Workplace Services.
W070-05	2	97	Cook	Final: Did the department, between July and the end of last year, issue a notice to investigating staff, or their senior officers, reinforcing the view that covert recordings of witnesses were not allowed?
W071-05	2	98	Cook	Please list the subsections of the WA Surveillance Devices Act 1998 that outline the circumstances where covert recording is allowed.
W072-05	2	100/101	Cook	Final: Did Building Industry Taskforce Officers advise a John Holland construction company site supervisor that they had been covertly recording an interview with him and that the recording would be typed into a transcript and entered into the Taskforce's files?
W073-05	2	102	Cook	Please provide a copy of the internal guidelines relating to the covert recording of conversations?
W074-05	2	102/103	Cook	Of the 31 matters referred by the Royal Commission, how many failed for want of evidence?
W075-05	2	104	Cook	How many calls of complaint came from Tasmania?
W076-05	2	105	Cook	How many calls of complaint did you not open a file for?
W077-05	2	106	Cook	Where a file is opened, how many are discontinued?
W078-05	2	110	Cook	How many staff will be involved in the building industry compliance campaign?
W079-05	2	118	Cook	What is the union to which you are referring in your report?
W080-05	2	123/124	Cook	Did the federal industrial registrar indicate when he commenced (and would complete) inquiries into the matters from the confidential volume of the Cole report
Outcome 2 - Tuesday, 1 June 2004				
W081-05	2	9	Cook	Will you provide to us a copy of your report in confidence?
W082-05	2	11	Cook	Did any of the quotes in your report become part of a case that went to trial?
W083-05	2	11	Cook	In the relevant quote in your report, was the person referring to the housing sector of the industry?

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W084-05	2	21	Cook	How many allegations worthy of further investigation, of union officials lining their own pockets, would have been referred to the state police?
W085-05	2	24/49	Marshall/ Cook	In the instances where covert recordings have been authorised please provide what the exceptional circumstances were?
W086-05	2	24/49	Marshall/ Cook	In relation to the allegation that officers of the task force had engaged in covert recording of witnesses, what does the department intend to do to investigate this?
W087-05	2	25/26/32	Cook	In relation to the case study entitled ‘Commission orders workers to return to work’ you refer to a matter dealt with by Commissioner Harrison where he ‘handed down a return-to-work order’. The decision discloses ‘alleged industrial action, opposition by union members to proposed changes to the Workplace Relations Act 1996 and evidentiary requirements to establish jurisdiction’. (a) Is this the decision being referred to in the case example? (b) Was any appeal taken by the MBA or by the minister, who was an applicant in these proceedings and thus had standing, for the direction to be enforced? (c) Did the judge make any reference in his summing up of the case to the task force?
W088-05	2	44	Cook	In relation to the case of Alfred v. Brcic—the statement made by Peter Crabtree was put before the court at the time at which His Honour was considering the penalty to impose. Can the department confirm when the plea of guilty was entered and in the proceedings in which the court turned its mind to the penalty the statement of Crabtree was entered into the record.
W089-05	2	54/55/58	Wong	For those employees who would have been entitled to a greater payment (under GEERS) if there was no cap, can you provide information on the total amounts by state? That is, employers whose employees received entitlements under the scheme and by state. In relation to GEERS: • What the non-payment amount was—how much work is owed over and above the scheme caps? • In relation to the payees— ○ the employers and the states in which those employers were? ○ in relation to which payments under GEERS were made? Please provide for the period 1 July to 31 December 2003 and period 1 July year to date. For Info: refer to question W11 (Senate Estimates February 2002) and QoN 503 (House, August 2002) requested by Senator Sherry.
W090-05	2	56,57,58	Wong	In relation to the events that Mr and Mrs Rambaldi refer—that is, the preventing by the receiver of the employees from accessing the premises and performing their work: (a) When was the application by the employees first made? (b) When was the application for GEERS first received? (c) Was the insolvency date 13 August 2002? (d) On what date were applications of employees or former employees of Drews Furniture from Campbellfield, Victoria, first received by the department? (e) What action did the department take as a result of those applications? (f) Did the department, prior to making a decision in relation to those applications, have discussions with the receiver, liquidator, or representatives of the employees? (g) If the claims were originally rejected, on what basis were they rejected? (h) When were subsequent GEERS applications lodged by the employees? (i) When did the department undertake any investigation as a result of those subsequent applications being lodged? (j) Can the department explain the timeframes involved with this decision making process?
W091-05	Comcare	59	Wong	Comcare When did Comcare become aware of the Productivity Commission’s Inquiry into national workers compensation occupational health and safety frameworks

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				report?
W092-05	Comcare	60	Wong	What other machinery in Australia Post would one have to be licensed for, either internally or broadly?
W093-05	Comcare	60	Wong	Australian Post has not advised Comcare of the possibility of importing overseas labour?
W094-05	Comcare	64	Wong	Is there anything in the budget papers that tells how much the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Commission costs?
Outcome 1				
W095-05	1	42, 31/5/04	Webber	A certain job seeker was referred to a provider, but before an interview took place the job seeker phoned and advised that they had obtained secure full-time work. Several days later the job seeker received a 'preparing for work' agreement in the mail asking him to sign and return it to the provider. The job seeker had never had prior contact with that provider however he was asked to sign a presigned contract. Would that be brought to the attention of the department? Would the department find that unusual?
W096-05	1	Written	Crossin	What is the current longest unresolved submission?
W097-05	1	Written	Crossin	Is there a timeframe standard for time taken from the provider contract signature to the delegate signature and if not why not?
W098-05	1	Written	Crossin	How many Indigenous participants have been on STEP and do you have data to show how many have gone on to employment, with a breakdown between proper full time employment and CDEP funded positions?
W099-05	1	Written	Crossin	Have you got up to date figures for the Northern Territory on the number of Indigenous job seekers assisted in the different NT centres and by program (STEP)?
W100-05	1	Written	Crossin	The Indigenous Employment Policy Evaluation (Stage 2) report stated that in 2002 Indigenous outcomes were improved by 8.6% for those using Intensive Assistance. Do you have the figure for 2003?
W101-05	1	Written	Crossin	Is there any evaluation information on either the National Indigenous Cadetship Program or the Corporate Leaders for Indigenous Employment Project?
W102-05		Written	Murray	Please provide a list of all advertising or public information projects currently being undertaken or expected by the department or agency in the course of 2004 where the cost of the project is estimated or contracted to be \$100 000 or more, indicating: (a) the purpose and nature of the project; (b) the intended recipients of the information to be communicated by the project; (c) who authorised or is to authorise the project; (d) the manner in which the project is to be carried out; (e) who is to carry out the project; (f) whether the project is to be carried out under a contract; (g) whether such contract was let by tender; (h) the estimated or contracted cost of the project.