

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
30 ,31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace**

**Question Number: W326-06**

**Question:**

Senator Marshall provided in writing:

Could you provide a list of all administered industrial relations programs in DEWR, including:

- (a) a description of the program;
- (b) number of people directly receiving funds/assistance under the program;
- (c) a breakdown on those receiving funds/assistance under the program by electorate;
- (d) the policy objective of the program;
- (e) whether the program is ongoing;
- (f) the funding in each financial year of the forward estimates for the program (with a breakdown of administered and departmental expenses), including:
  - how much funding was allocated for the program;
  - how much is committed to the program; and
  - how much is unspent.
- (g) indication of whether an evaluation of the program effectiveness has been conducted:
  - if so, when that evaluation occurred; and
  - if so, the conclusion of that evaluation.

**Answer:**

The administered industrial relations programs in DEWR are:

- Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992
- Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot
- International Labour Organisation
- General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)
- Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)

**(a)**

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992	This is an administrative arrangement that manages the transfer of monthly levy collections between the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the central fund administered by the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation. For further information refer to page 139 of the DEWR Annual Report 2003-04.
Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot	This is Commonwealth’s contribution to the cost of conducting pre-industrial action secret ballots, in anticipation of passage of secret ballots legislation.
International Labour Organisation	This is the annual subscription for Australia’s membership of the International Labour Organisation.
General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)	For the General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS) and the Employee Entitlement Support Scheme (EESS) refer to page 154 of the DEWR Annual Report 2003-04. Refer to page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06 for the Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio.
Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)	For the Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett (SEESA,) refer to page 154 of the DEWR Annual Report 2003-04. Refer to page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06 for the Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio.

**(b)**

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992	Not applicable.
Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot	None. This appropriation is dependent on the enactment of the Workplace Relations Amendment (Secret Ballots for Protected Action) Bill 2002.
International Labour Organisation	One organisation.
General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)	From 1 July 2004 to 31 May 2005, 8,277 people received assistance under GEERS and EESS.
Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)	Assistance under the Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group employees (SEESA) is not provided direct by this Department to individual employees. The Commonwealth through its contracted agents SEES Pty Ltd advance funds to the Ansett Administrators who make payments direct to individual former employees of the Ansett Group of companies. There were 13,045 former Ansett employees paid to 18 May 2005 from advances made.

(c)

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992	Not applicable.
Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot	Not applicable.
International Labour Organisation	This is the annual subscription for Australia’s membership of the International Labour Organisation.
General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)	This information is not contained in a readily retrievable format. It would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources from other activities to compile the information as requested.
Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)	This information is not contained in a readily retrievable format. It would involve a substantial and unreasonable diversion of resources from other activities to compile the information as requested.

(d)

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992	This is not a program - it is an administrative arrangement that manages the transfer of monthly levy collections between the Consolidated Revenue Fund and the central fund administered by the Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Corporation. For further information refer to page 170 of the DEWR Annual Report 2002-03.
Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot	The policy objective of the program is to meet the majority of costs associated with the holding of secret ballots to authorise protected industrial action.
International Labour Organisation	Australia has been a member of the ILO since 1919. Successive Governments have taken the view that the ILO is an appropriate international forum for Australia to present views on labour matters.
General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)	Refer to page 153-154 of the DEWR Annual Report 2003-04. Refer to page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06 for the Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio.
Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)	Refer to page 153-154 of the DEWR Annual Report 2003-04. Refer to page 49 of the Portfolio Budget Statements 2005-06 for the Employment and Workplace Relations Portfolio.

**(e)**

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992	Ongoing.
Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot	Ongoing.
International Labour Organisation	Ongoing.
General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)	GEERS - Ongoing. EESS – Non-ongoing
Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)	Non-ongoing.

**(f)** No. Information disaggregated by program is not provided for the forward years in the budget papers.

**(g)**

Coal Mining Industry (Long Service Leave Funding) Act 1992	Not applicable.
Workplace Reform – Secret Ballot	Not applicable.
International Labour Organisation	Not applicable.
General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)/Employee Entitlements Support Scheme (EESS)	Refer Australian National Audit Report No. 20, 2002 -2003
Special Employee Entitlements Scheme for Ansett Group Employees (SEESA)	Refer Australian National Audit Report No. 21, 2003 -2004