

**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**

**Output Group: 2.1 Workplace relations policy and analysis**

**Outputs: 2.1.1 Workplace relations policy advice**

**Question Number: W344-06**

**Question:**

Senator Marshall provided in writing the following question:

What information and support will the Department provide to small business operators (without specialist HR capacities) who will be drawn into the federal system if a unitary system is created?

**Answer:**

As the workplace relations reform package represents fundamental changes to the existing workplace relations system, it will be essential to develop widespread community understanding of the new measures. A comprehensive communication and education programme will accompany the workplace relations reform package. There will be a particular focus on assistance to small business.

As part of the programme, the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations (DEWR) and the Office of the Employment Advocate will provide education and assistance to both employees and employers to ensure they comply with their obligations under the new workplace relations system. This will be further complemented by enhanced compliance activities by the Office of Workplace Services in DEWR.