

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

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
29TH AND 30TH MAY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.2: Workplace Relations Implementation

Output 2.2.1: Industry and Australian Government Employment Advice

Question Number: W158-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Is DEWR aware of a public comment made by a construction company executive on 23 March 2006 (as reported in the Sydney Morning Herald) that the new federal laws 'attack the industry's right to work co-operatively with our own workforce.... the construction unions have been quite responsible since the Gyles Royal Commission'.

Answer:

Yes, DEWR is aware of unattributed comments allegedly made by an executive about the behaviour of construction industry unions since the 1990 New South Wales Gyles Royal Commission. The unattributed comments are sharply at odds with the findings of the 2003 Royal Commission into the Building and Construction Industry which found widespread lawlessness in the industry.