

**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: Corporate

Question Number: W179-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

In response to question W756-06 you have said that an AWA that has been agreed between a staff member and his or her manager is not final until the RSC approves the agreement, and that this process can take up to two and a half weeks.

- a) How can these agreements best suit the needs of the workplace when a third party not involved with the negotiation can veto the agreement? and
- b) Is this process and time period also true for the approval of AWAs for new staff?

Answer:

- a) The RSC considers salary and other remuneration components to ensure consistency of approach across different workplaces throughout the department.
- b) The same approval process applies for all employees including existing and new employees to the department. The department has processes in place to expedite the approval of AWAs where appropriate (for example, out-of-session approvals).