

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

**2006-2007 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
29<sup>TH</sup> AND 30<sup>TH</sup> 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 2.2.2: Assistance to the Employment Advocate**

**Question Number: W191-07**

**Question:**

Senator Marshall asked at *Hansard* (29 May 2006) page 86:

Can the OEA please provide an outline of the sampling methodology used?

**Answer:**

In order to conduct quantitative research that has validity, it is necessary to reflect the true AWA population. The sampling methodology adopted by the OEA in conducting analyses of Australian workplace agreements (AWAs) is based on employer size (by employee numbers).

This population is best stratified according to the four standard business size categories (i.e. < 20 employees, 20-99 employees, 100-499 employees, and 500+ employees).

The numerical proportions are obtained by dividing the number of AWAs in each business size category by the overall AWA population (since the commencement of the WorkChoices legislation).

The number of AWAs in each business size is then obtained by multiplying the numerical proportions by the total sample required, which in this instance was approximately 250 in total.

In addition, the OEA avoided selecting more than one single AWA from any particular employer to prevent duplicate AWAs appearing in the sample. Furthermore, AWAs were also selected from lodgements made across the month of April rather than from a week or a small number of days in April.