

**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

OFFICE OF WORKPLACE SERVICES

Question Number: W230-07

Question:

Senator Carr asked in writing:

Is the department investigating allegations that the Western Australian Company Hanssen's has been underpaying some workers currently in Australia and in their employ who are holders of visa subclass 457? Please provide a report on the status of that investigation, of any findings you have made and the action taken. Has Hanssen's been prosecuted? Do you intend to prosecute Hanssen's over this matter? If there is an outcome, what is it?

Answer:

Sub-question 1: The Office of Workplace Services (OWS), with the assistance of the Western Australian Department of Consumer and Employment Protection, is investigating the allegations, given that the alleged breaches relate to federal and State industrial instruments.

Sub-question 2: The investigation is not complete.

Sub-question 3: The investigation is not complete.

Sub-question 4: Decisions on whether to litigate are made following the completion of an investigation.

Sub-question 5: The investigation is continuing.