

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

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

QUESTION ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W239-07

Question:

Senator Carr asked in writing:

When developing advice for the Minister on Schedule 3 Bills, the Department seeks the advice of relevant Portfolios on whether the Bill is consistent with Australian law, Australian Government policy and Australia's international obligations.

- a. Can you confirm that the Australian Government actually has a policy regarding ILO Convention 182, that being, to ensure that all State and Territory legislation on child labour complies with the Convention?
- b. Can you further confirm that Australia intends to sign ILO Convention 182 at the meeting of the ILO currently underway?

Answer:

This question was referred to the Department of Employment and Workplace Relations from the Department of Transport and Regional Services.

- a. It is Government policy that ILO Conventions will not be ratified unless (i) agreement to ratification has been given by all State governments and the ACT and Northern Territory governments where their law and practice must comply with the Conventions, and (ii) until all the legislation necessary for compliance is in place federally (where necessary) and in all relevant jurisdictions.
- b. The Australian Government is currently finalising the ratification process for this ILO instrument. This process is expected to be completed within the coming months.
Unlike other United Nations Conventions there is no requirement to become a signatory prior to ratification of ILO instruments.

