

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
2008-09 BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

Outcome 9

DEEWR Question No. EW116_09

Senator Abetz asked on 17 June 2008, provided in writing.

Question

Commonwealth/State Relations Unit

Under the Governance Framework for a uniform system States will be able to elect if and how they opt into the national system – isn't this at odds with Forward with Fairness's objective of achieving a truly national system?

Answer

No. *Forward with Fairness* states the Government will work cooperatively with the States to achieve national workplace relations laws for the private sector, either by State Governments referring powers for private sector workplace relations or other forms of cooperation and harmonisation. This contemplates a number of ways of creating a national workplace relations system for the private sector, and the governance principles endorsed at the May meeting of the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council are consistent with that.