

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 9

DEEWR Question No. EW199_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Economic impact or modelling on workplace relations policies

What economic analysis or modelling has been provided to the Government on its workplace relations policies to assess the likely impact on:

- Unemployment;
- Employment;
- Labour productivity;
- Real wages;
- Income distribution, especially effects on the less skilled;
- Economic growth;
- Inflation; and
- Interest rates

Answer

As stated by Associate Secretary Finn Pratt at the 2008-09 Budget Estimates Hearing on 2 June 2008¹, the Department has not modelled the economic impacts of the Government's workplace relations policies.

The Department did however prepare a submission to the Senate Inquiry into the Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill 2008 (the Bill). The Bill was referred to the Senate Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Committee for inquiry, with particular reference to the:

- a) economic and social impacts from the abolition of individual statutory agreements;
- b) impact on employment;
- c) potential for a wages breakout and increased inflationary pressures;
- d) potential for increased industrial disputation;
- e) impact on sectors heavily reliant on individual statutory agreements; and
- f) impact on productivity.

The Department's submission addressed each of these issues.

¹ Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations, Budget Estimates Proof Committee Hansard, page EEWR 33, 2 June 2008.