

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 9

DEEWR Question No. EW338_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Homeworkers Code of Practice

Can the Department provide a detailed overview of the Home Workers Voluntary Code?

Answer

The Homeworkers Code of Practice (the Code), administered by the Homeworker Code Committee Incorporated (the Committee), is a voluntary code that encourages manufacturers, retailers and sports/corporate organisations to better understand their supply chains to minimise the potential for exploitation of outworkers.

The Code provides for various parties in textile, clothing and footwear supply chains to assist in ensuring that homeworkers are employed in accordance with relevant award conditions. Accredited manufacturers are required to map their entire supply chain, put in place agreements with each party in the supply chain and document pay rates and conditions.

Signatories to the Code are required to investigate alleged breaches of award wages and conditions and report their findings to the Committee and the Textile, Clothing and Footwear Union of Australia. Retail signatories, sports and corporate organizations assist to make supply chains transparent by disclosing details of their suppliers and committing to take steps to ensure compliance with award wages and conditions.

Accredited manufacturers are licensed to display the 'No Sweat Shop' label on their Australian-made garments, giving consumers a way to identify ethical products made in Australia.