

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome *Australian Industrial Registry*

DEEWR Question No. EW431_09

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

How will the Commission ensure that workers are no worse off, yet employers will not be hit with further costs and regulation?

Answer

The Australian Industrial Registry has provided the following response.

This is a matter for determination by the Australian Industrial Relations Commission (AIRC). It is noted that sections 13-16 of the Award Modernisation Request issued to the President of the AIRC by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, requires the AIRC to consult with major employer and employee representatives, as well as publish exposure drafts of each modernised award so that stakeholders and interested parties have an opportunity to comment on the exposure drafts. It is also noted that section 576T of the Workplace Relations Act 1996 provides that while a modern award must not include terms and conditions of employment that are determined by reference to State or Territory boundaries, or do not have effect in each State or Territory, a modern award may include such terms for a period of up to five years.