

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

Outcome **PEOPLE, PARLIAMENTARY AND COMMUNICATIONS GROUP**

DEEWR Question No. EW566_09

Senator Watson asked on 16 June 2008, DEWR Hansard page 42

Question

AWA

How many employees on an AWA currently receive a bonus in excess of 5 per cent of their salary?

Answer

Since the Machinery of Government (MoG) changes in December 2007, employees in DEEWR have their entitlements protected by a section 24(3) determination made under the *Public Service Act 1999*. For the majority of employees in DEEWR, that determination preserves the conditions specified in Australian Workplace Agreements (AWAs) existing immediately prior to the MoG changes.

DEEWR has a legal obligation to honour these preserved AWA arrangements and will continue to do so. Most preserved AWAs provide for payment of a performance related lump sum bonus.

DEEWR currently has 2720 employees on preserved AWA arrangements with access to a maximum notional bonus in excess of 5 per cent of their salary. These preserved AWA arrangements cover all classifications of the former DEWR, SES and Legal classifications of the former DEST and FACSIA and a limited number of APS 5 to EL 2 classifications of former FACSIA.

As provided under the preserved conditions in the 24(3) determination, all bonus payments in DEEWR are subject to performance assessment in accordance with the relevant Performance Management guidelines of the former DEWR, DEST and FACSIA.