

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome 9

DEEWR Question No. EW629_09

Senator Watson asked on 2 June 2008, EEWHR Hansard page 56.

Question

Transitional arrangements - States

In relation to the position of progress on employees under a federal award who are not incorporated and are currently under a five-year transitional process, which is due to expire in March 2011. Are you aware of progress in relation to that? It does require certain agreements with the states. Have those discussions taken place?

Answer

The Department is currently engaged in ongoing discussions with state and territory government officials on the development of a national system of workplace relations for the private sector. As stated in *Forward with Fairness*, a national system may be achieved by either state governments referring powers for private sector workplace relations or other forms of cooperation and harmonisation.

Those discussions are likely to encompass a range of transitional issues associated with a national workplace relations system for the private sector, including consideration of employers and employees covered by 'transitional awards'.