

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome 5

DEEWR Question No. EW0137_10

Senator Fisher provided in writing.

Question

In regard to the Deputy Prime Minister's Variation of Award Modernisation Request Under Section 576C(4) (the request) of 28 May 2009 regarding the restaurant and catering industry, and in particular to the following factors in the request;

- a. 'the operational requirements of the restaurant and catering industry',
- b. 'the labour intensive nature of the industry'
- c. 'the industry's core trading times'

i. What (if any) formal or informal processes is the Department implementing to assess which other industries or sectors exhibit one or more of the determining factors to which the Minister refers?

ii. Please describe:

1. The industries and sectors being assessed,
2. The processes involved, including timelines and involvement of any third parties.

Answer

- i. At the request of the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations, the Department and her Office has met with, spoken to or received information from a number of industry stakeholders to discuss specific concerns they have raised in relation to award modernisation.
- ii.
 1. The industries and sectors involved include:
 - General Retail including, Liquor Stores and Supermarkets
 - Horticulture
 - Pharmacies
 - Fast Food
 - Cleaning
 - Aged Care
 2. Discussions have been held with a number of industry stakeholders including the Australian Services Union, Australian Nurses Federation, Australian Liquor Stores Association, National Association of Retail Grocers of Australia, Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, National Farmers Federation, Horticulture Australia Council, Australian Industry Group, Pharmacy Guild of Australia, Master Grocers of Australia, Fruit Growers Tasmania and Growcom. The Department is also examining a number of submissions made to the Government and the Australian Industrial Relations Commission in relation to industry concerns about particular modern awards. These processes commenced in May 2009 and are ongoing.