

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

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

**Outcome**                        **5**

**DEEWR Question No.**        **EW0138\_10**

Senator Fisher provided in writing.

**Question**

In regard to the Deputy Prime Minister's letter of 29 May 2009 to the President of the Australian Industrial Relations Commission relating to the restaurant and catering industry, and in particular to the following factors itemised (the factors) in that letter;

- a. Issues of 'continuing viability'
- b. 'low profit margins'
- c. 'peak operating times of evenings and weekends'
- d. 'capacity of that sector to bear such (cost) increases, even with transitional arrangements'
- e. Sectors covered by 'different business models' to others in the industry
- f. Limited 'streams of revenue'
- g. 'high labour costs as a proportion of total expenses', and,
- h. 'very high award reliance'
- 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 factors?
  - ii. Please describe;
    1. The industries and sectors being assessed,
    2. The processes involved, including timelines and involvement of any third parties.

**Answer**

See response to Question EW137\_10.