SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10

Outcome **5**

DEEWR Question No. **EW0286_10**

Senator Cash asked on 2 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 83.

Question

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)

Senator CASH—Thank you for that. Could you comment on the average time frame for an appeal or the outcome of an appeal?

Ms Baxter—I will need to take that on notice.

Answer

Over the period 1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009, the average time taken to process an appeal has been 15.9 weeks.

A number of factors can impact on the time taken to determine an appeal. The Department is often required to request additional information from the claimant and seek legal advice to address complex technical arguments. At this stage of the process, claimants are often represented by solicitors or union representatives and insolvency practitioners are reluctant to assist, either due to the age of the matter or the poor quality of the books and records.