

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

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

**Outcome/Agency**        5

**DEEWR Question No. EW0306\_10**

Senator Xenophon asked on 2 June 2009, DEEWR Hansard page 109.

*Fair Work Australia – Establishment of a specialist education unit for small and medium enterprises*

**Question**

So the nature and extent of the assistance that will be provided, where is the line drawn for the size of businesses, what is the nature of the advocacy services and where do you draw the line? Will it include actually attending a hearing, for instance? If it is a contested hearing, will assistance be given? For instance, in terms of confidentiality what extent will there be—I was going to say Chinese walls, which is probably not the right phrase to use—a separation between those who advocate this sort of thing in this unit and others? There would be circumstances where, in the same office, a worker could be seeking assistance concerning the company that is seeking assistance from the specialised unit.

**Answer**

Refer response to DEEWR Question No. EW303\_10 and DEEWR Question No. EW304\_10.

The role of the specialist education unit for small and medium enterprises is to provide advisory and education services specific to small and medium employers and their employees.

The role will not include advocacy.

Officers of the OWFO are Australian Public Service (APS) employees and as such must adhere to the APS Code of Conduct and APS Values. OWFO staff are also bound by the Privacy Act 1988. The OWFO may disclose information in accordance with Subdivision E, Chapter 5, Part 5-2, Division 3 of the *Fair Work Act 2009*.

Further information regarding the conduct of investigations and complaint management is available at [www.fwo.gov.au](http://www.fwo.gov.au).