

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0015_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

PROTECTED ACTION BALLOT SCHEME- FUNDING

On the last occasion the Department was questioned about the increased funding under this scheme and whether that represented a view that there was an expectation of an increased number of ballots to take place in the future. The answer was that there was no expectation of an increase in protected action ballots. Is this still the view adopted by the Department?

Answer

It is difficult to predict the number of protectedaction ballots that are likely to be held in the future. This is due mainly to ballots being dependant on the number of workplace agreements being negotiated at any one time.

The Australian Electoral Commission has advised the department that the number of protected action ballots held by quarter during 2009-10 was as follows:

1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009 – 137 ballots,
1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009 – 234 ballots,
1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010 –141 ballots, and
1April 2010 to 31 May 2010 – 96 ballots.