

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

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

**Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0062\_11**

**Senator Eggleston provided in writing.**

**Question**

**FAIR WORK PRINCIPLES**

Is it true that the Government's Fair Work Principles User Guide (released by Minister Carr on 23 December 2009 when Acting Minister for Workplace Relations, and which includes a requirement for clothing and footwear manufacturers to be certified to the Home Workers Code of Practice) specifically states that overseas based suppliers tendering for Australian Government contracts do not have to comply with the same legislated Australian workplace requirements i.e. the Fair Work Principles and the Home Workers Code of Practice? And would it be correct to say, therefore, that the Government is setting two standards – one applying a higher standard for Australian manufacturers as per the Fair Work Principles and a lower standard for overseas suppliers?

**Answer**

The Fair Work Principles is a policy of the Australian Government and as such is applied to Australian based suppliers and service providers. The Fair Work Principles do not require overseas based suppliers to comply with Australian laws that would otherwise not apply to them. Overseas suppliers are required to comply with all relevant laws in the country in which they are based.