

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION  
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005–2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
2–3 NOVEMBER 2005**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Outcome 3: Increased workforce participation**

**Output 3.1: Working age policy**

**Output Group 3.1.1: Working age policy legislation**

**Question number: W415-06**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked: -Can the Department provide to the Committee the figures they have been unable to validate in the NATSEM Report due to their vagueness?

**Answer:**

The results in the NATSEM Report were based on estimates of the average rates of income support in 2006–07, the values for which were stated in the report. However, modelling disposable incomes and effective marginal tax rates also requires estimates for the values of other relevant parameters, including rates and income test thresholds for Family Tax Benefit, Medicare levy thresholds, pensioner tax offset values and pension income test free areas. These were not provided in the NATSEM Report. To check the NATSEM results, DEWR used the income support rates provided in the NATSEM Report and made comparable adjustments to the remaining parameters.