

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

**2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2 and 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ADVOCATE

Question Number: W537-06

Question:

Senator Marshall asked at *Hansard* page 47:

Could the OEA provide figures on the number of enquiries community legal centres have taken in regard to AWAs over the last 3 years?

Answer:

The OEA requires that its Community Partners submit quarterly statistical reports. The purpose of these reports is to enable the regional OEA office to manage the contract to ensure contracted services are being delivered to the target clients. The reports are not currently collated and it is not possible to provide accurate data for the entire programme.

For those Partners that have provided differentiated statistical data JobWatch, the OEA's community partner in Victoria reports that approximately 2% (334 over the last 3 years) of enquiries received relate to AWAs (see the answer to Question 126). The South West Brisbane Community Legal Centre has received approximately 600 AWA related enquiries, and the Queensland Working Womens' Service approximately 400 over the last three financial years, but these Partners do not provide the OEA with details of the total number of enquiries received to enable the OEA to put this figure in context.

Other community partners such as the Employment Law Centre (ELC) in Western Australia, have only recently started to differentiate AWA related enquiries, because the number has been so small. The ELC reported that in the June 2005 quarter 0.4% (2 of 488) of enquiries were concerning allegations of duress or coercion in relation to AWAs. The Northern Territory Working Womens' Centre received 7 (1% of all enquiries) AWA related enquiries in the 2004/05 financial year.