

**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: W572-06

Question:

Senator Marshall asked in writing:

In relation to W249-06, the allocated budget for promotion of AWA's was \$1,880,813 for the FY 2004/5, and the budget for funding OEA community partner organisations is \$1,361,610.48 for the 2 years from September 2004 to August 2006. Doesn't this further expose the priority the OEA is placing on getting more AWA's approved rather than ensuring that people have the appropriate help and advice they need to understand their AWA and properly negotiate and then consent to it?

Answer:

No. The provision of advice and assistance is a core function of the OEA, (s.83BB of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*) the majority of which is directly provided by OEA Workplace Relations Advisers who currently number 65, Legal Officers who currently number 7 and a National Telephone Advisory Service. The community partnership program is a supplementary program to provide additional sources of advice and assistance to individuals seeking such help.