

**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

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W585-06

Question:

Senator Siewert asked at *Hansard* page 78: Why did the *WorkChoices* helpline tell an individual that they would be entitled to unlimited legal aid under the Government's scheme to assist people who claim they may have been unlawfully dismissed?

Answer:

Operators working on the *WorkChoices* hotline were given training and provided with a script to assist them in answering questions. The following is the information operators received in relation to unlawful dismissal:

Employees who believe they have been unlawfully terminated will be eligible to receive up to \$4,000 worth of legal advice, based on the merits of their case. They will be eligible if they have a certificate from the Australian Industrial Relations Commission stating that their claim has merit and if they are assessed as having financial need.

The Department has been unable to confirm that incorrect advice was provided on this issue.