

**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: W618-06

Question:

Senator Marshall asked in writing:

Workplace Express reported on 30 September about the use of AWAs by Red Scooter, a Melbourne function centre. According to the article the managing director of Red Scooter, Eamonn Hamilton said: “the most significant advantage [of the AWAs] was the federally-funded training assistance the company received if it moved to an AWA (the funding wasn’t available if the company was award-covered, he said, and the move to common rule awards in the State would have led to the business being covered)”.

- (a) Is the Department aware of any training assistance funded by the federal government which is available to organisations who use AWAs over organisations that operate under different industrial instruments?
- (b) What is the criteria for qualifying for this funding?
- (c) How much is the funding?
- (d) Does the Department consider the linking of funding to AWAs as a breach of the freedom of association principles?
- (e) Please provide a list of all organisations/businesses that have received training assistance funding under this arrangement, the number of AWAs existent in the organisation/business and the total amount of funding paid.
- (f) Can the Committee be provided with the contract that guides this arrangement?

Answer:

- (a) No.
- (b) Not Applicable.
- (c) Not Applicable.
- (d) Not Applicable.
- (e) Not Applicable.
- (f) Not Applicable.