

**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 workplaces

Output Group 2.2: Workplace relations implementation

Output 2.2.3: Workplace relations services

Question Number: W640-06

Question:

Senator Marshall asked in writing:

Office of Workplace Services For each financial year since 1996, please table:

- (a) The annual budget for OWS;
- (b) The number of Wageline (phone advisory) staff
- (c) The number of inspectors
- (d) The number of inspections conducted
- (e) The amount of money received
- (f) The number of litigations initiated by OWS, and the number initiated by the complainant;
- (g) The arrangements regarding provision of inspectorate/Wageline services shared between state and federal jurisdictions

Answer:

- (a) Under the Commonwealth's output and outcome based budgeting and reporting framework, agencies do not report below the output level. OWS is not a separate output.
- (b) OWS currently has the equivalent of 43 full-time WageLine staff. A breakdown of staffing levels for previous years is not available.
- (c) OWS currently has 104 staff appointed under the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* as federal inspectors. Of these, the equivalent of 68 full-time staff are currently directly engaged on inspectorial duties. A breakdown of staffing levels for previous years is not available.
- (d) The number of on-site inspections is not readily available as they are not separately recorded. Some claims and targeted investigations may either not

necessitate an on-site visit, or may require more than one visit. However, the following table summarises the number of investigations finalised over the requested period:

Financial year	Investigations finalised
2004-05	6,584
2003-04	6,852
2002-03	6,453
2000-02	6,829
2000-01	6,486
1999-00	5,556
1998-99	5,358
1997-98	5,685
1996-97	3,772

- (e) The following table summarises the amount of money recovered:

Financial year	Money recovered
2004-05	\$6,041,474
2003-04	\$6,340,831
2002-03	\$6,005,409
2001-02	\$5,393,981
2000-01	\$4,979,929
1999-00	\$4,261,855
1998-99	\$3,826,210
1997-98	\$3,738,135
1996-97	\$4,482,365

- (f) The following table summarises the number of OWS prosecutions approved and the number of small claims actions claimants have advised they would initiate:

Financial year	OWS litigation	Claimant litigation
2004-05	9	254
2003-04	9	230
2002-03	3	296
2001-02	7	276
2000-01	8	264
1999-00	3	308
1998-99	1	289
1997-98	2	366
1996-97	1	222

- (g) The arrangements regarding the delivery of federal workplace relations information and compliance services in all States and Territories since 1996 are as follows:

State/Territory	Service provider: 1996-2005
Australian Capital Territory	OWS

New South Wales	OWS
Victoria	OWS
Northern Territory	OWS
Queensland	OWS, then contracted to the State Department of Industrial Relations (and its predecessors) from 1 July 1998
South Australia	OWS, then contracted to the State Department for Administrative and Information Services from 1 October 1998
Western Australia	OWS, then contracted to the State Department of Consumer and Employment Protection (and its predecessors) from 1 July 1998
Tasmania	OWS, then contracted to the State Department for Infrastructure, Energy and Resources from 8 December 1999