

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

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING  
2<sup>ND</sup> NOVEMBER 2006**

**EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**OFFICE OF WORKPLACE SERVICES**

**Outcome 1 : The rights and obligations of workers and employers under the  
*Workplace Relations Act 1996* are understood and enforced fairly**

**Output Group 1.1 : Education and Compliance Services**

**Question Number: W378-07**

**Question:**

Senator Marshall asked in writing:

Does OWS have a policy regarding the handling of complaints for underpaid or non-payment of wages of less than \$1000? Please provide details about (a) the number of complaints received for underpayment of wages for less than \$1000 (b) the number of these complaints which were recommended for prosecution and (c) the number of these recommendations which were approved for prosecution. (d) Please provide a breakdown of these by gender, age, occupation, industry, size of business, location (by state) and employment status (full-time, part-time, casual or independent contractor)

**Answer:**

Yes. All claims are accepted and investigated regardless of the amount involved.

(a) Between 27 March 2006 and 31 October 2006, OWS recovered money for 956 claims where less than \$1,000 was involved. This figure does not include claims arising from targeted compliance activities.

(b) No single claim for under \$1,000 has been recommended for prosecution on its own. In a number of cases, recommendations for prosecutions have involved a number of claims for less than \$1,000 and have formed part of prosecutions for multiple claims against the same employer.

(c) No single claim for under \$1,000 has been prosecuted on its own. A number of claims for less than \$1,000 have formed part of prosecutions for multiple claims against the same employer.

(d) The requested breakdown of this information is not readily ascertainable (ie by gender, age, occupation, industry, size of business, location and employment status), and to provide the requested answers in that format would require an unreasonable diversion of office resources.

**Estimated Cost:** To prepare this answer has taken approximately 4.1 hours at a cost of \$74.00