

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

**2006-2007 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2ND 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: W405-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

- (a) Do you think there was anything wrong with a request that an officer of the OWS asking for personal information over the telephone put that request in writing?
- (b) Does the OWS have guidelines about approaching individuals and organisations and requesting personal information?
- (c) If yes, what do those guidelines say?

Answer:

- (a) The request was a matter for Mr Smith who had himself raised issues regarding Mr Denning in Parliament.
- (b) The Workplace Relations Act, 1996 and Regulations authorise Workplace Inspectors to seek employee information from employers in investigating potential breaches of the Act. Such requests can be made in writing. Employees can indicate on OWS Claim forms or to an inspector for their names to remain confidential.
- (c) See (b) above.

Estimated Cost: To prepare this answer has taken approximately 1.8 hours at a cost of \$34.50