

**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: W430-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Is it the case that OWS will not advise an employee against signing an agreement when it reduces an employee's terms and conditions of employment against their current entitlements (e.g. in a certified agreement) or the relevant award?

**Answer:**

The provision of information and education for employees and employers relating to agreement making is within the remit of the Office of the Employment Advocate (OEA). If the OWS receives an enquiry regarding agreement making the client is referred to the OEA for assistance.

If OWS receives an allegation of a breach of the *Workplace Relations Act 1996*, including of the agreement making provisions, the OWS will investigate the allegation.

**Estimated Cost:** To prepare this answer has taken approximately 1.8 hours at a cost of \$36.00