

**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

AUSTRALIAN FAIR PAY COMMISSION SECRETARIAT

Outcome 1: Set federal minimum and classification wages to promote the economic prosperity of the people of Australia

Question Number: W467-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Fair Pay Commission - Consultation What was the framework for the conduct of the public consultation sessions?

Answer:

Each session lasted approximately 2 hours and was designed to ensure all attendees had the opportunity for an equal say. Below is an outline of the framework for the sessions:

- An outline of the Australian Fair Pay Commission and the wage setting process was given.
- A session leader asked for participant's views on a series of topics which were discussed separately in groups. These topics were:
 - Issues the Australian Fair Pay Commission should take into account when it sets and adjusts wages.
 - Personal experiences and earning low wages. Other issues impacting on income.
 - Factors which would influence people entering the workforce.
 - Safety net for the low paid.
 - Issues for setting and adjusting wage rates for juniors, trainees and people with disabilities.
- A table spokesperson provided an overview of feedback from each table.
- An opportunity was provided for feedback from the group as a whole as part of a general summary discussion.