

**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**

**EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE WORKPLACE AGENCY**

**Outcome 1: Equality of Opportunity in employment for Women**

**Output Group: Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency**

**Output: Encouragement of Australian employers to improve equal opportunity outcomes for women in the workplace**

**Question Number: W528-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong tabled supplementary budget estimates questions on notice asking:  
Does EOWA have any other comments to make about this report?

**Answer:**

EOWA's independent research shows that the Act is supported by business and is seen to be effective regulation that delivers important social and economic goals. Organisations that report to EOWA have a higher representation of women in management, more flexible work practices and increasing rates of quality part time work, just some of the important ways that business can improve opportunities for women and increase the female workforce participation.

The Government's response to the Taskforce's recommendations is sensible and practical, reducing the paperwork, whilst maintaining Businesses' mandatory responsibility to have in place ongoing workplace programmes for women to address issues of equal opportunity.

The Government's response follows the advice of a 1999 independent review which recommended an increased focus on education and assistance.

The proposed change will also enable EOWA to provide more assistance and offer more resources to employers to help them develop their EO programs to advance women and business.