

**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**

**Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplaces**

**Output Group 2.2: Workplace relations implementation**

**Output 2.2.3: Workplace relations services**

**Question Number: W642-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing: Work Choices Implementation Agencies – General matters What is the difference between the Workplace Advisory Service, the Employer Advisors in each state and territory and the Employer Adviser Programme, against the OEA’s Community Partners Program, Employer Associates (Employee Associates) and Employer Consultants and Advisers?

**Answer:**

The Workplace Advisory Service is a DEWR service. Workplace Advisors are Departmental employees who provide free information and education to employees and employers on general WorkChoices matters.

The Department does not run an “Employer Advisors” programme.

The Employer Adviser Programme (EAP) is a contracted service. The EAP provides targeted information on the specific application of WorkChoices reforms, drawing on the business, jurisdictional and industry knowledge of the providers.

The OEA Community Partners Programme is a contracted service, which provides advice and assistance specifically to employees who are in a disadvantaged bargaining position (includes trainees, apprentices, women, outworkers, and people from non-English speaking backgrounds).

The Employer Associates, Employee Associates, and Consultants/Advisers are part of the Agreement-Making Partnership Programme within the OEA. This programme differentiates from the other DEWR and OEA programmes and services as it promotes the making of workplace agreements and provides assistance and advice, education and information to employees and employers (especially employers in small business) and organisations in relation to workplace agreements.

**Estimated cost:** Based on the FOI calculator it has taken approximately 3 hours at an estimated cost of \$60 to prepare this answer.