

**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: W730-07**

**Question:**

Senator Wong asked in writing: To clarify, the purpose of GEERS is not to provide a gift to employees, but rather to allow the government to stand in the shoes of employees in circumstances where their employer is liquidated — so that any risk of non payment of entitlements falls on the government and not the employees, but the employer is not absolved from responsibility for paying any outstanding entitlements?

**Answer:**

A key principle of GEERS is that employers retain the prime responsibility for the payment of employee entitlements.

**Estimated cost:** Based on the FOI calculator it has taken approximately 2 hours at an estimated cost of \$40 to prepare this answer.