

**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

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplaces

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Output 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W792-07

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Job Creation/Employment Criteria

Has gender wage inequality grown over the life of the government? Please provide calculations on a year to year basis.

Answer:

No. Women's average full-time hourly earnings as a percentage of men's have risen from 86.2 per cent in May 1996 to 89.8 per cent in May 2006.

The table below illustrates the gender earnings ratio for adult full-time hourly earnings for the month of May in all years between 1996 and 2006.

	Gender Full-time Hourly Earnings Ratio
May-96	86.2%
May-97	88.3%
May-98	87.7%
May-99	88.7%
May-00	89.2%
May-01	89.6%
May-02	89.4%
May-03	88.6%
May-04	89.9%
May-05	89.3%
May-06	89.8%

Source: ABS *Average Weekly Earnings* (Cat. No. 6302.0) and ABS *Labour Force, Australia - Detailed Electronic Release* (Cat. No. 6291.0.55.001)