

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**SENATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE - QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
2008-09 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING**

**Outcome**            9

**DEEWR Question No. EW 889\_09**

Senator Abetz asked on Thursday 23 October 2008, Hansard EEWR 24

**Question**

*The Safe Work Australia Bill 2008 and the Intergovernmental Agreement for regulatory and operational reform in occupational health and safety (IGA)*

Following a discussion on the proposed membership of Safe Work Australia contained in the *Safe Work Australia Bill 2008* and in the IGA the question was asked who initiated the idea to reduce the number of employee and employer representatives to two each compared to three each in the Australian Safety and Compensation Council.

“When trying to morph ASCC into Safe Work Australia it was decided to reduce both employee and employer representation. Was that as a result of a Commonwealth government suggestion or was it as a result of the ACTU or ACCI or one of the states or territories? Where did that idea come from?”

**Answer**

As advised by departmental officials at the estimates hearing (refer pages EEWR 24-26), the decision regarding the level of employee and employer representation on Safe Work Australia was made by the Workplace Relations Ministers' Council.