

EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS

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

Outcome

WORKPLACE AUTHORITY

EW906-09

Senator Fisher asked on 23 October 2008, EEWL Hansard page 97.

Question

Publication of Collective Agreements

Senator FISHER—Thank you for that clarification. Thank you, Ms Bull. I take you to your answer to question 493, which is about workplace agreements and statistics. Your answer was provided in respect of publishing details relating to the making of collective agreements on your website. Will the authority be publicly releasing statistics this year?

Ms Bennett—Yes, Senator. I can give you an update on collective agreements, actually, in answering that question at that point in time. As at 15 October 2008, we had published 4,730 collective agreements.

Senator FISHER—Perhaps, Ms Bennett, if you could provide those figures on notice to the committee or in writing afterwards.

Ms Bennett—On the publishing of collective agreements?

Senator FISHER—As to what they are at a particular point in time. At the moment, I am not so concerned about what they are. I am more concerned to know that the details will be published so that they are capable of being looked at.

Ms Bennett—Yes. We certainly can do that. At the point in time last estimates, we explained in the evidence that there had been a bit of delay because of other priorities. But we have certainly well caught up. As I said, there are almost 5,000 collectives that researchers and others can now access through our website to get information on collective agreements. They are both fairness test and no disadvantage test collective agreements that have passed.

Answer

The Workplace Authority has provided the following response.

The Workplace Authority publishes Collective Agreements on the first and third Wednesday of each month. All collective agreements that have passed the relevant test are published unless an application for exemption from publication from one or both of the parties is under consideration or an exemption from publication has been granted.

As at 5 November 2008, 5746 collective agreements have been published on the Workplace Authority web site.