

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009–10**

Outcome 5

DEEWR Question No. EW761_10

Senator Cash asked on 22 October 2009, EEWL Hansard page 125.

General Employee Entitlements and Redundancy Scheme (GEERS)

Question A

Senator CASH — From what industry sectors did the 15753 claims for GEERS assistance that the Department received during 2008–09 originate?

Answer

The table below lists the number of GEERS claims received by industry sector during 2008–09.

Industry Sector *	Number of GEERS claims received during 2008–09 (as a percentage of the total number of claims)
Accommodation, Cafes and Restaurants	766 (4.9%)
Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing	146 (0.9%)
Communication Services	862 (5.5%)
Construction	2202 (14.0%)
Cultural and Recreational Services	251 (1.6%)
Education	963 (6.1%)
Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	99 (0.6%)
Finance and Insurance	249 (1.6%)
Government Administration and Defence	71 (0.5%)
Health and Community Services	575 (3.7%)
Manufacturing	3155 (20.0%)
Mining	77 (0.5%)
Personal and Other Services	658 (4.2%)
Property and Business Services	1892 (12.0%)
Retail Trade	1981 (12.6%)
Transport and Storage	1427 (9.1%)
Wholesale Trade	379 (2.1%)
Total number of claims received	15753

* Based on Australian and New Zealand Standard Industrial Classification (ANZSIC)

Question B

Senator CASH — Would you know whether or not there are particular sectors where the rate of employee applications is high or unusual in terms of the 15753 claims for GEERS assistance that were received by the Department during 2008–09?

Answer

There was no unusually high representation of any industry sector in the claims for GEERS assistance the Department received during the 2008–09 financial year.

The table below identifies the number of claims received for GEERS assistance from the four most common industry sectors over the last three financial years.

Industry Sector	Number of GEERS claims received from four most common industry sectors (as a percentage of the total number of claims received for that financial year)		
	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Manufacturing	2390 (25.2%)	2150 (21.6%)	3155 (20.0%)
Construction	1226 (12.9%)	1703 (17.1%)	2202 (14.0%)
Retail Trade	1380 (14.5%)	1181 (11.9%)	1981 (12.6%)
Property and Business	1047 (11.0%)	1102 (11.1%)	1892 (12.0%)
Total number of claims received for Top five industries	6043 (63.7%)	6136 (61.6%)	9230 (58.6%)
Total number of claims received	9488	9954	15753

Question C

Senator CASH — In terms of the nature of the entitlements claimed by employees, are there any particular trends in what they are actually claiming?

Answer

The percentage of GEERS claims the Department has received for redundancy pay has declined since the 2006–07 financial year.

The table below identifies the number of claims received for each entitlement category through GEERS during the last three financial years. This is also expressed, in brackets, as a percentage of the total number of GEERS claims received for each financial year.

Eligible GEERS Entitlements	Number of GEERS claims received by entitlement category (as a percent of the total number of claims received during that financial year)		
	2006–07	2007–08	2008–09
Wages	4546 (47.9%)	5055 (50.8%)	7031 (44.6%)
Annual Leave	6212 (65.5%)	6242 (62.7%)	9866 (62.6%)
Long Service Leave	1703 (17.9%)	1290 (13.0%)	2130 (13.5%)
PILN	4241 (44.7%)	4282 (43.0%)	6548 (41.6%)
Redundancy	4570 (48.2%)	2797 (28.1%)	3034 (19.3%)
Total number of claims received	9488	9954	15753