

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

Inquiry into *Fair Work Bill 2008*

Question on Notice

Hearing, Perth, 29 January 2009

Minister for Commerce, WA Government

Question from Senator Cameron at page 23 *Committee Hansard*, 29 January 2009:

Has the government done any econometric modelling of the cost of setting up a separate workplace relations system in Western Australia and secondly, could you provide us with the details of the budget implications of a separate system in Western Australia.

Answer

Western Australia (along with all other States except Victoria) presently has a separate industrial relations system and has had a State industrial relations system for over a century.

Since the commencement of the previous Federal Government's Work Choices legislation,¹ the coverage of the State industrial relations system has been largely residual to the Commonwealth's use of the corporations power to prevail over State laws.

The *Fair Work Bill 2008* (the Bill) maintains the Work Choices constitutional coverage. Consequently, the Bill does not represent a change in coverage of the State industrial relations system and there are no costs associated with "setting up" a separate system.

The costs of the current WA industrial relations system are on the public record.

¹ Amendments to the *Workplace Relations Act 1996* by the *Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Act 2005*.