

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace  
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

**Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations**

**DEEWR Question No.EW1052\_10**

**Senator Abetz asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 138.**

**Question**

**THE WORKPLACE RELATIONS AMENDMENT (TRANSITION TO FORWARD WITH FAIRNESS) BILL**

Senator ABETZ—You have given me a history of how the award modernisation process got under way. The Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill was before the parliament in March. It was one of the first pieces of legislation introduced, wasn't it? Mr Kovacic—I think it was the first piece of legislation introduced by the new government. Senator ABETZ—Yes, it was the first piece of legislation. Are you aware whether it was still before the parliament on 20 March 2008? Mr Kovacic—I would have to take that on notice. Senator ABETZ—If you could, please. I think we might find that it was. But that legislation which was before the parliament in March 2008 set up the award modernisation process.

**Answer**

The Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Bill (the Bill) was not before the Parliament on 20 March 2008. The Bill was passed by the Parliament on 19 March 2008. The *Workplace Relations Amendment (Transition to Forward with Fairness) Act 2008* received Royal Assent on 20 March 2008.