

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0778\_11**

**Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 45.**

*Refers to previous Question No [EW0556\\_11](#).*

**Question**

**QUANTIFY CLASSIFICATIONS**

Senator ABETZ—And when you say ‘more than 50,000’ are we able to quantify that with some exactitude? Mr Wilson—We will have to take that on notice. I do not want to sound evasive, but I do not know exactly whether we track every single classification or whether we do the majority. But if we can be precise with the number, then we will give it to you. Cont. Pg 46 Senator ABETZ—..... this new system is clearly into simplification, with only 50,000 individual classifications and 100,000 individual transitional pay rates—but of course, it is ‘more than’, so if you can also provide some specificity to the number ‘more than 100,000’ as well, please. Mr Wilson—Certainly.

**Answer**

*The Fair Work Ombudsman provided the following response.*

There are a total of 54,392 individual classifications linked in the Fair Work Ombudsman’s pay and classification database (i.e. pre modern award classifications linked to modern award classifications).

‘Classifications’ are an actual count of classification mappings in the system that sits behind PayCheck. This includes junior and apprentice classifications.

For example, where applicable, a 16 year old Level 1 would be one unique classification. A 17 year old Level 1 would be counted as a separate unique classification. Furthermore, a 16 year old Level 2 in the same award would be another unique classification and so on.

This supports approximately 107,000 individual transitional pay rates available through online tools.

These figures can only be obtained ‘at a point in time’ and not retrospectively. As more data entry work is completed the number of classifications and individual pay rates may increase.

‘Individual transitional pay rates’ is a count of the wage rates available and would

include for example full time, part time and casual rates for the same classification where applicable. This figure cannot be tallied precisely as this would involve significant time and pressure on the database.

The total provided for individual pay rates has been extrapolated manually by reviewing the data in the database that sits behind PayCheck. The number of full time, casual or part time rates stored in this system has been determined for each pre-modern award classification and modern award classification that makes up a classification mapping. The number of unique rates has then been estimated by adding the total number of combinations that can be made from the classification mapping completed.