

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0901_12

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Review of the Fair Work Act

1. Why was any reference to productivity left out of the terms of reference?

Answer

The terms of reference for the Fair Work Act Review encompass consideration of the issue of productivity. Specifically, the terms of reference state that "The review is to be an evidence based assessment of the operation of the Fair Work legislation, and the extent to which its effects have been consistent with the Objects set out in Section 3 of the Fair Work Act".

Section 3 of the Fair Work Act states that:

The object of this Act is to provide a balanced framework for cooperative and productive workplace relations that promotes national economic prosperity and social inclusion for all Australians by:

- (a) Providing workplace relations laws that are fair to working Australians, are flexible for businesses, promote productivity and economic growth for Australia's future economic prosperity and take into account Australia's international labour obligations.*