

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. EW0960_12

Senator Boyce provided in writing.

Question

Regulation 144

The Department has said that the \$30 million in supplementation will be sufficient. Did you consult directly with the 316 organisations to ascertain whether they concurred with that view? If so with whom did you consult?

Answer

The Australian Government has committed to help eligible Queensland social and community services (SACS) employers to meet the back pay obligation in the Regulation. The estimated cost to the Commonwealth of this commitment is \$30 million. Additional Commonwealth funding will also be available to Queensland SACS employers through the Government's commitment to fund its share of the wage increases awarded in the national equal remuneration case - an investment of more than \$2 billion.

The \$30 million commitment was costed utilising the methodology applied to the national equal remuneration case and taking into account the employers likely to be covered by the Regulation.

In committing to the finding the Government took into account feedback from the consultation process undertaken by Mr Arch Bevis with stakeholders in Queensland, particularly in relation to back pay obligations.

Information is now being collected from the 316 SACS employers listed in the Explanatory Statement to the Regulation to assist in determining eligibility for the additional Commonwealth funding.-