

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

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

**Outcome 4 - Employment & Participation Policy**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0194\_11**

**Senator Abetz asked on 31/05/2010, Hansard page 80.**

**Question**

**DETERMINING UNEMPLOYMENT RATE**

Senator ABETZ—What input did the department have, if any, in relation to the government now determining that full employment is 4.75 per cent as opposed to four per cent? Ms Paul—That is not a question for us. They are the macro settings that Treasury concerns itself with, and I do not think we can answer that. Senator ABETZ—Did you have any input? Were you consulted by Treasury? Ms Paul—Not that I know of. Certainly it would not be the workplace relations people; it would be people who were here before. I am happy to take it on notice; however, from my own perspective, the answer is no. Senator ABETZ—Please take that on notice. Basically, by saying that full-time employment has shifted from four per cent to 4.75 per cent, the government has given up on 75,000 Australians, so I just want to know whether you were consulted in relation to that. If you would take that on notice, Ms Paul, I would be most obliged.

**Answer**

The determination of a particular rate of unemployment as being consistent with full-employment is not a responsibility or function of the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations and subsequently was not consulted.