

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0238_12

Senator Abetz asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 17.

Question

Processing Time For Single Enterprise Agreements

Senator ABETZ: If you can tell us how many, in raw numbers and percentage terms, are dealt with in seven days, and then the reason why the others cannot be. I assume it was not your department because you did not necessarily exist in the days that that aspiration was made, and when I say the 'former minister', I should have said the 'former shadow minister'; it was her aspiration that things would be done within seven days. Are you able to go back to people who had experience with the Australian Industrial Relations Commission and ascertain whether any advice was sought from them as to the reasonableness of putting forward this seven-day figure, or whether it was simply thought out by the shadow minister herself, or whether there was some evidence basis to the suggestion that this could be done. Mr Lee: I can take elements of that on notice. I can deal with what you raise in terms of quantification of variations around the median, and we will endeavour to give you an answer to that. As to some of the broader issues you raise about what may have been, I cannot obviously deal with those.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.

For the period 1 July 2010 to 31 May 2011, 12% (661) of applications for the approval of single enterprise agreements were determined within seven days. Applications are dealt by Members of Fair Work Australia as soon as reasonably practicable.