

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0577_11

Senator Humphries asked on 20/10/2010, Hansard page 62.

Question

Senator HUMPHRIES—Do you break those figures up at all by states and territories or by whether the agreements have a union as party or whether they do not have a union as a party? Mr Nassios—No. Senator HUMPHRIES—So you cannot tell me whether agreements to which a union is a party are more or less likely to be approved quickly than an agreement without a union as a party? Mr Nassios—I do not believe we can. Cont. page 63 Senator HUMPHRIES—Is it possible to back cast the lodgements to obtain that information? Would that be difficult to do? Mr Nassios—I am certain it would be difficult to do. Whether it is possible, I would have to see how we collect the data and what we have in terms of the way the application is made. The application is made under the same section. Whether there is a union that is somehow a signatory to the agreement or not, to the extent that there may be a union that has sought to be covered by the agreement, which is a different process, there may be a capacity to somehow match that and then try to work out a differential of time if such a differential exists. But I have to say that at this stage I am thinking of a possibility, but whether that is practical—I would have to take that on notice.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

For the financial year 2009/10, the median time taken from lodgement to approval of a section 185 Fair Work Act 2009 enterprise agreement application was 32 days.

For the financial year 2009/10, the median time taken from lodgement to approval of a section 185 Fair Work Act 2009 enterprise agreement application in which one or more notices under section 183 for an employee organisation to be covered by an enterprise agreement was given to Fair Work Australia was 23 days.