

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations & Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EM0034_14

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Industrial disputation rates

1. Can the Department confirm that the rate of industrial disputation measured as working days lost per thousand employees is now on average around one third the rate it was in 2007? 2. Can the Department provide annual rates of industrial disputation measured as working days lost per thousand employees for each year for the period 1996-97 to 2012-13? 3. Can the Department confirm that in the building and construction industry the rate of industrial disputation is now on average less than one fifth the rate it was in 2007? 4. Can the Department provide annual rates of industrial disputation in the building and construction industry measured as working days lost per thousand employees for each year for the period 1996-97 to 2012-13?

Answer

1. According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication Industrial Disputes (Cat no. 6321.0.55.001), the quarterly average working days lost per 1000 employees in all industries due to industrial disputes in the 2007 calendar year was 1.4. This compares to a quarterly average of 2.9 days per 1000 employees in the year to the September quarter 2013 (the latest available data).

On an annualised basis, 5.4 days per 1000 employees were lost due to industrial disputes in 2007, while 11.6 days were lost per 1000 employees in the year to the September quarter 2013. The rate of disputation in 2013 is therefore 214 per cent higher than the rate in 2007.

2. Annualised working days lost per 1000 employees (WDL/000E in the table below) – financial year 1996-97 to 2012-13.

Year	WDL/000E
1996-97	90.0
1997-98	82.1
1998-99	55.8
1999-00	105.3
2000-01	45.1
2001-02	41.9
2002-03	30.2
2003-04	66.9
2004-05	28.8
2005-06	21.6

2006-07	9.9
2007-08	17.6
2008-09	13.3
2009-10	13.2
2010-11	15.9
2011-12	28.8
2012-13	20.2

3. Working days lost per 1000 employees in the Construction industry, on an annualised basis in the 2007 calendar year, were 10.1, compared to 30.4 in the year to the September quarter 2013.

The average working days lost per 1000 employees in the Construction industry were 2.5 days per quarter in 2007, compared to 7.6 in the year to the September quarter 2013. These figures equate to a rate of disputation in 2013 that is 300 per cent higher than the equivalent figures for 2007.

4. Annualised working days lost per 1000 employees (WDL/000E in the table below) in the Construction industry – financial year 1996-97 to 2012-13.

Year	WDL/000E
1996-97	402.9
1997-98	578.3
1998-99	268.9
1999-00	393.0
2000-01	234.1
2001-02	237.0
2002-03	237.2
2003-04	231.7
2004-05	200.2
2005-06	90.8
2006-07	13.9
2007-08	11.8
2008-09	31.6
2009-10	43.2
2010-11	72.5
2011-12	31.8
2012-13	84.6