

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**FAMILIES, HOUSING, COMMUNITY SERVICES AND**  
**INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS PORTFOLIO**  
**2012-13 Budget Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number:** 6

**Question No:** 157

**Topic:** EOWA and Office for Women - Gender Equity Bill

**Hansard Page:** Written

**Senator Cash** asked:

I refer to a report in the Australian Financial Review on March 9 this year titled 'Gender Equity Bill to Spur Pay Claims'. Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry CEO Peter Anderson flagged his concerns with this legislation, saying he was concerned the information employers were required to provide 'could be used for extraneous purposes'. A spokesperson for ACCI said employers were concerned that unions would use the data on wage levels to ask for industry-wide raises.' Are there any express provisions in the legislation that would prevent the use of information in this way, or in other ways that are extraneous to the express purposes of the legislation?

**Answer:**

See Item 46 of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill 2012, and page 22 of the Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Amendment Bill 2012 Explanatory Memorandum.

The Agency has existing obligations under the *Privacy Act 1988*.