

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000361

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Data collected on greenfields agreements

1. What changes to your data collection will you make as a result of the passage of the Greenfields Agreements changes made by the Fair Work Amendment Bill 2014? Will you collect data on the terms in agreements made between the parties, as distinct from agreements registered after the notified negotiation period?
2. Will you collect data on the time taken to reach agreement in respect of both types of agreement?

Answer

1. The Department of Employment's Workplace Agreements Database (WAD) collects data on the content of all enterprise agreements approved under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Fair Work Act), including greenfields agreements. The department is liaising with the Fair Work Commission on the collection of data in relation to greenfields agreements that will be made under the new s.182 (4) of the Fair Work Act.

The Fair Work Amendment Bill 2014 requires an independent review of the operation of the new greenfields agreement provisions under Part 5 of Schedule 1 of the Bill to be undertaken and completed within two years after commencement. The independent review will be expected to draw on all available evidence sources, including from employer and employee stakeholders, the Fair Work Commission and the WAD.

2. There is no requirement under the Fair Work Act for bargaining representatives to notify the Fair Work Commission of the commencement of greenfields agreement negotiations. It is therefore not possible to collect data on the time taken for all greenfields agreements to be made.