

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 ADDITIONAL SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
16 FEBRUARY 2006
EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO**

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy advice and analysis

Output: 2.1.1 Workplace Relations Policy Advice

Question Number: W721-06

Question:

Senator Wong asked in writing:

Further to the answer provided in W609-06, does this mean that where the Fair Pay Commission varies the rates of pay of those covered by State Awards currently that those rates of pay can be varied to a lower rate of pay than under their State Award?

Answer:

No. Those employees currently covered by state awards who are moving into the national system have a guarantee that their minimum rate of pay cannot fall below the level set in their award at the time of the commencement of the *Workplace Relations Amendment (Work Choices) Act 2005*.