

**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 and analysis

Output 2.1.2: Workplace Relations Legislation Development

Question Number: W727-06

Question:

Senator Marshall asked in writing:

QON W621-06 Independent contractors –

Where is this at?

Has a draft bill been finalised?

If so, has it been to Cabinet?

Answer:

- During the 2004 Federal election campaign, the Government announced its intention to introduce an Independent Contractors Bill to protect the status of independent contractors. The Government has undertaken extensive consultation with stakeholders in relation to the policy development of this proposed legislation.
- In December 2004, the Minister asked the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Employment, Workplace Relations and Workforce Participation to inquire into the status of independent contracting and labour hire arrangements in Australia. This Committee tabled its report entitled *Making It Work: Inquiry into independent contracting and labour hire arrangements* on 17 August 2005.
- The Department also released a discussion paper entitled ‘Proposals for legislative reform in independent contracting and labour hire arrangements’ seeking stakeholder views on a number of reform proposals. Submissions in response to the discussion paper closed in May 2005. Over 60 submissions were received, from unions, employers and employees.
- The outcomes of both the Parliamentary and Departmental consultation processes have been considered in developing the policy of the Independent

Contractors Bill which is expected to be introduced into Parliament towards the middle of the year.

- The Department does not comment on the details of the drafting of legislation or Cabinet consideration of possible legislative proposals.