

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

**2005-2006 BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
30, 31 MAY and 3 JUNE 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Office of the Employment Advocate

Question Number: W268-06

Question:

Senator Marshall provided in writing:

In the OEA's view, is it a conflict of interest for the OEA to provide an OEA officer, paid by the taxpayer, to an industry association to provide advice and help process/handle AWAs for that association and for that association to charge employers \$1000 plus \$10 per AWA processed? If so, why? If not, why not?

Does the OEA endorse this sort of arrangement?

Is the OEA aware of any such practices? If so, provide details.

Answer:

No. The OEA has made it clear in its arrangements with industry associations that they are not to charge for services provided by OEA staff seconded to those associations. These arrangements do not preclude an industry association charging a fee for AWA-related services provided by its own staff.