

**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

Outcome 2: Higher productivity, higher pay workplace

Output Group 2.1: Workplace relations policy and analysis

Outputs 2.1.1: Workplace relations policy advice

Question Number: W311-06

Question:

Senator Marshall provided the following question in writing:

Have there been any specific consultation forums convened by the Minister on the reform agenda?

Answer:

The Department does not have access to meeting and consultations that the Minister has undertaken on workplace relations reform.

The Minister publicly announced in November 2004 that he would consider any suggestions put to him regarding reform of the federal workplace relations system. He was quoted in the Australian of 17 November 2004 as saying:

“Over the next two or three months I will be consulting with as many people and organisations as possible as to what sort of industrial relations system we want to see in Australia in the next four or five years. My door is open. We will be looking at what we want to achieve over the next four or five years in terms of the framework for industrial relations in Australia and I will be listening to every point of view that is presented to me.”

On the 26 May 2005, the Minister also stated in a joint announcement about workplace relations reforms with the Prime Minister, the Hon John Howard MP, a commitment to ‘continue to consult on the detail of the legislation’.

On 3 June 2005, the Prime Minister discussed workplace reform issues at the meeting of the Council of Australian Governments (COAG).