

**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**

**Output: Workplace relations policy advice**

**Question Number: W325-06**

**Question:**

Senator Marshall provided in writing:

What is the Department's strategy for deeper involvement within the ILO?  
How much is being spent pursuing this strategy.

**Answer:**

Australia is a founding member of the ILO and has regularly participated in ILO activities, including the annual International Labour Conference (ILC).

At the 2005 ILC in June, Australia was elected to the ILO Governing Body to represent the Far East Asia and Pacific sub-region, as its titular member. Australia was last a member of the Governing Body in 1996. Australia is committed to attending all three Governing Body meetings scheduled each year and participating actively in the various Committees of the Governing Body.

In light of the Australian Government's recent election to the ILO Governing Body, the Department is now reviewing its successful election strategy with the aim of refining our objectives with respect to renewed engagement with the ILO.

As part of our strategy for re-engagement, and in an effort to raise Australia's profile and to promote Australia's candidacy for a Governing Body position, the level of resourcing devoted to the ILO and its meetings has been increased. As a Governing Body member, Australia will continue to dedicate an appropriate level of resourcing to sustain ongoing strategic engagement with the ILO.

Reflecting this renewed commitment, Australian delegations have participated more recently in a range of technical meetings dedicated to aspects of the maritime and steel sectors. Australia hosted the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tripartite Sub-regional Forum on Decent Work in Melbourne in April 2005 and attended the Regional Tripartite Workshop on

National Occupational Safety and Health Programmes in Thailand in May. Over the coming 6 months Australia will attend several technical meeting as well as the 14<sup>th</sup> Asian Regional Meeting in Busan, Republic of Korea in October.

Participation in ILO activities, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, complements the Government's broader engagement with countries in our region.