

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0017_11

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

PROTECTED ACTION BALLOT SCHEME- TRENDS

From the information available to you, what trend is occurring with respect to the number of protected action ballots since 1st July this year?

Answer

Based on the information available there is no apparent trend in relation to the number of protected action ballots held in 2009-10 with quite large variances, up and down, between quarters.

The Australian Electoral Commission has provided the Department with the following quarter by quarter protected action ballot numbers for 2009-10:

- 1 July 2009 to 30 September 2009 – 137 ballots,
- 1 October 2009 to 31 December 2009 – 234 ballots,
- 1 January 2010 to 31 March 2010 – 141 ballots, and
- 1 April 2010 to 31 May 2010 – 96 ballots.