

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2011-2012**

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0304_12

Senator Humphries asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 106.

Question

Clean Start Award

Mr Kovacic: Certainly the rates of pay are higher than those in the relevant modern awards. Senator HUMPHRIES: I am advised they are about 18 per cent higher than the most recent national award applying to cleaners. Would that be right? Mr Kovacic: I am not entirely sure, but I can take that on notice to confirm the degree of differentiation. Senator HUMPHRIES: Thanks.

Answer

The difference between the rates provided in the Clean Start Agreement and the *Cleaning Services Award 2010* is dependent on a number of factors including when the employee was employed, the state the employee is in, the type of employment, and the structure of the business.

For example, as at 30 May 2011:

- The minimum full time hourly pay rate for an employee in the ACT under the Clean Start Agreement is \$18.66.
- The basic minimum full time hourly pay rate for a daytime employee in the ACT under the *Cleaning Services Award 2010* is \$16.03.

In the above scenario there is a difference of 16 per cent between the Clean Start Agreement and the *Cleaning Services Award 2010*.

Note that there are several different scenarios that can be applied which change the percentage difference in rates. For example, if a daytime employee in the ACT was employed between 27 March 2006 and 1 January 2010, then the basic minimum full time hourly pay rate would not apply and rather, the employee's minimum hourly rate of pay would be \$16.46 which is a difference of 13 per cent when compared to the current Clean Start Agreement rates.

Alternatively, if a night-time employee in the ACT was employed between 27 March 2006 and 1 January 2010, then the employee's minimum hourly rate of pay would be \$19.83. An employee working night shift under the Clean Start Agreement has a minimum full time hourly pay rate of \$21.46. Therefore in this scenario there is a difference of 8 per cent between the Clean Start Agreement and the *Cleaning Services Award 2010*.

16 per cent appears to be the highest point of difference between the two rates.