

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON  
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

**Agency**                                      **Fair Work Australia**

**DEEWR Question No.**                      **EW557\_10**

Senator Seiwert provided in writing.

**Question**

Has any decision been made about the kinds of research to be undertaken by, or on behalf of, FWA for the purpose of the forthcoming minimum wages review? In particular, has any decision been made regarding the undertaking of research on the living costs of low paid workers and their families?

**Answer**

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

A range of research projects are currently being undertaken, internally or externally commissioned, to inform the forthcoming minimum wages review.

Research topics include:

- reviews of data on minimum wage earners;
- measures of productivity and competitiveness;
- labour market changes;
- equal remuneration principles; and
- industry profiles.

Research being undertaken on the living costs of low paid workers and their families is:

- a review of approaches to defining and measuring living standards and needs of low-paid employees.