

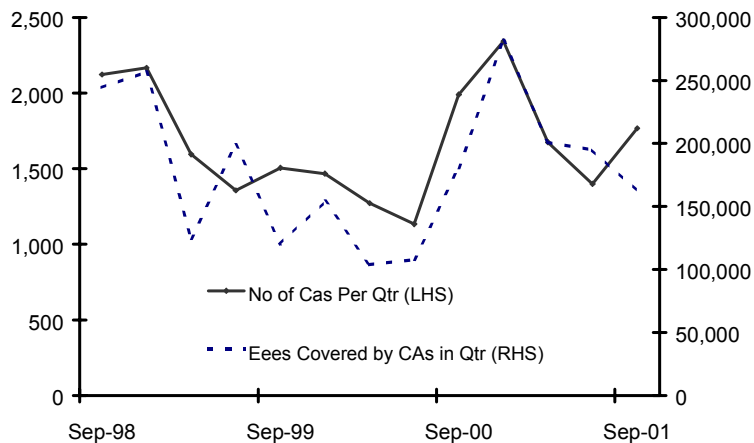
## 8. Bargaining and Systemic Considerations

[8.1] The Commission’s decision in this matter must be made in the context of volatility in the rate of agreement-making.

[8.2] The Department of Employment and Workplace Relations publishes a quarterly report on numbers of Certified Agreements being approved by the Commission, and various outcomes under these agreements.<sup>16</sup>

[8.3] The following figure is drawn from the September Quarter 2001 report. It illustrates numbers of certified agreements approved each quarter, and the number of employees covered per quarter.

**Figure 5 – Certified Agreements Numbers and Coverage, 1998-2001<sup>17</sup>**



[8.4] It shows a pattern of variation over time, with quarterly agreement approvals/employees peaking in December 2000. It should be noted that agreement-making is prone to cycles of negotiation and re-negotiation which can affect agreement numbers.

<sup>16</sup> Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, *Trends in Workplace Bargaining*, September Quarter 2001.

<sup>17</sup> Department of Employment and Workplace Relations, *Trends in Workplace Bargaining*, September Quarter 2001.