Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No.EW0960_10

Senator Cameron asked on 10/02/2010, Hansard page 47.

Question

TAX EVASION IN THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

Senator CAMERON—How many inquiries have you made in relation to tax evasion in the building and construction industry? Mr Wilson—I would need to take that on notice. Senator CAMERON—Have you done any? Mr Wilson—I cannot answer that question, I am afraid. It is an awfully specific question that I am not equipped to respond to, but certainly I am happy to check and provide you with the answer. Senator CAMERON—None of your officers can give me an idea whether you have done any analysis on tax evasion? Senator ABETZ—Wouldn't you flick it straight to the ATO? Mr Wilson—I will check. However, Mr Loizides, who is the head of our inspectorate, tells me that when we have allegations put to us of tax evasion, we would automatically refer that to the Australian Taxation Office. But I will check for you. Senator CAMERON—Can you advise me then how many allegations have been referred? Mr Wilson—We will check again.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman is the statutory agency responsible for ensuring compliance with the *Fair Work Act 2009*. Its role consists of promoting harmonious, productive and cooperative workplace relations, and to monitor, inquire into, investigate, and enforce compliance with relevant Commonwealth workplace laws.

Matters concerning tax evasion fall outside of the Fair Work Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

The Fair Work Ombudsman does not keep specific data on referrals to the Australian Taxation Office. Where a possible taxation issue is identified during the course of a communication between the Fair Work Ombudsman and a client, the client will be referred to the Australian Taxation Office for further information and/or action.

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