

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

The committee met on Monday, 2 June 2014 from 8.58 am to 6.30 pm.

The committee called agencies in the Employment portfolio including the Fair Work Ombudsman, Fair Work Building and Construction, Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Workplace Gender Equality Agency, Fair Work Commission, Comcare, and Safe Work Australia

Among other issues, the following issues were discussed:

- the number of complaints in relation to apprentices, trainees and employees
- the Fair Work Ombudsman's Small Business hotline
- a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Immigration and the Fair Work Ombudsman in relation to section 457 visas and migration salary rates
- property, plant and equipment upgrades and future leasehold improvements for Fair Work Building and Construction
- the desalination plant in Victoria and the cessation of a prosecution in relation to the plant
- the 'Mr Fluffy' installation scheme that left 1050 Canberra residents unable to reside in their homes
- funding for the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and whether the agency can meet the requirements of its strategic plan
- a change in the demographic of home renovators being affected by asbestos and how to promote awareness given this change
- staff numbers at the Workplace Gender Equality Agency and its workload reviewing data from thousands of organisations
- the collection of 'effective' data and the difference in data collected from the Australian Bureau of Statistics
- the appointment of expert members to the Fair Work Commission's Expert Panel on Super Funds
- the Fair Work Commission's code of conduct being required by statute
- more active intervention by Comcare under the enhanced claims model
- the merger between the Department of Employment and Safe Work Australia
- Safe Work Australia statistics on the range of injury fatalities.