

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000090

Senator Reynolds asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 111

Question

Schedule of witnesses at public examination

Senator REYNOLDS: So there were a number of other witnesses—were they giving similar evidence?

Mr Carr: It is hard to generalise, because of course this was actually a complicated transaction and it was a large business leading up to these events. The evidence given by the witnesses is quite far ranging across a number of topics and a number of meetings. It is really only, as Ms Mitchell said, when you step back and look at the entirety of the evidence that has been provided by all of the witnesses that it will really build a picture of what you are asking.

Senator REYNOLDS: So what is the next step? Given this is very complicated, it might be better for me to come back with questions next estimates.

Mr Carr: I think so.

Senator REYNOLDS: So what is the next step in the examination process; and when do we expect it to report back?

Mr Carr: We do have a timetable for the appearance of the witnesses but it is subject to change and indeed it has been changing because of the availability of the Federal Court and the witnesses. So, at this point, there are witnesses appearing at odd dates all the way through to April. I am happy to provide that schedule to you.

Senator REYNOLDS: That would be good. So if you could take on notice and just give us an idea of the schedule—noting that it is subject to change and all those vagaries—the process, the time frame and when the report is likely to go to the liquidator.

Answer

The current scheduling of witnesses is as follows:

22 March 2016 – Ron Johnson

5 April 2016 – Geoff Parker

12 April 2016 – Phil Bart

The liquidators will report to ASIC and the Department of Employment shortly after the completion of the examinations, which may include advices as to prospects of any recovery action arising out of the examinations.