

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace
Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2009-2010**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No.EW0959_10EW0959-10

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

Question

*HOW MUCH WORK DOES THE BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY
GENERATE?*

Senator CAMERON—How much work does the building and construction industry generate that would come under the ambit of this exchange of letters? Mr Wilson—I need to answer that in two ways, one of which is that under the formal exchange of letters there have been 16 matters referred from the ABCC to the Fair Work Ombudsman and its two predecessor organisations and, vice versa, we have referred— Senator CAMERON—What was the time frame for that 16? Mr Wilson—That was between 2006 and 2010. As I said, I need to answer that in two ways. There is then other work which we do in relation to the building industry. I do not have aggregated data, I am afraid, but between March 2006 and June 2009 we received a total of 4,942 matters in the building and construction industry. From July 2009 to the end of 2009 we received a further 660 matters—so, in total, 5½ thousand or so matters. I do not have it with me, but we do have aggregated data of the underpayments and other matters that relate to those recoveries, and I am happy to provide those as well. Senator CAMERON—Thank you.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.

From **1 July 2009 to 31 January 2010**, the Fair Work Ombudsman:

- received 796 complaints in the building and construction industry
- finalised 811 complaints relating to the building and construction industry
- recovered \$721,426 for employees in the building and construction industry.

From **27 March 2006 to 30 June 2009**, the Fair Work Ombudsman's predecessors, the Office of Workplace Services and the Workplace Ombudsman:

- received 4942 complaints in the building and construction industry
- finalised 4640 complaints in the building and construction industry
- Recovered \$5,732,922 for employees in the building and construction industry.