

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2010-2011**

**Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0553\_11**

**Senator Ryan asked on 20/10/2010, Hansard page 19.**

**Question**

**FWO - EDUCATIONAL VISITS**

Senator RYAN—With these 19,478 educational visits, have any prosecutions or otherwise action for breaches flowed from them? Mr Scully—I do not believe so. I am not aware of any. In fact, the information I have is that during these visits some non-compliances have been identified which the employer has volunteered to rectify at that time, and no further action has been taken apart from paying the correct entitlements to the employee. Senator RYAN—Sure, which presumably is the aim of the visit in the first place. Mr Scully—Indeed. Senator RYAN—How many of these visits have been the result of the request of employers versus the direction of the state government agencies or yourselves? Mr Scully—I do not have accurate information on that, Senator; I can take that on notice.

**Answer**

*The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response:*

Employers were identified and selected for a TEV by senior staff from the Fair Work Ombudsman and the State Partner Agency (through the Partnership Management Committee) on the basis that they either were, or were likely to be, transitioning from the state based industrial relations system to the new Fair Work system.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has received a number of requests from employers seeking a Transitional Educational Visit (TEV) from a Fair Work Inspector. The Fair Work Ombudsman does not have statistics relating to the origin of requests, however, anecdotally, most of these requests have been received through the Fair Work Information Line and appear to have been generated following publicity that Fair Work Inspectors were in the vicinity for the purpose of providing educational assistance to employers concerning the transition from state industrial relations systems to the national Fair Work system. Requests received were passed on to the appropriate state agency for follow up. It is estimated that 35 requests for TEVs were received from employers between 1 January and 30 September 2010.