

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Supplementary Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0018_14

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

FWO - Sham contracting and breaches of work entitlements in the building and construction industry

1. Will the FWO be allocating dedicated resources to the investigation and prosecution of sham contracting and breaches of work entitlements in the building and construction industry? If so, what will be the level of resourcing dedicated to these investigations? 2. Has the FWO developed, or is a process underway to develop a management plan to deal with sham contracting and breaches of work entitlements in the building and construction industry? 3. Can the FWO provide an estimate of the additional manpower and costs to the FWO's budget of pursuing breaches and sham contracting in the building and construction industry? 4. If no additional resources are to be allocated would you advise what activities of the FWO will no longer be pursued to allow a focus on sham contracting and breaches in the building and construction industry?

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a dedicated Misclassification Team that investigates matters relating to the misclassification of employees and sham contracting in all industries including the building and construction industry.

The Fair Work Ombudsman allocates resources across its functions based on a range of factors including the nature and volume of incoming inquiries and complaints, the assessment of appropriate priorities for our proactive and campaign activities and emerging priorities. The level of resources dedicated to particular industries is reviewed on an ongoing basis in the context of all our activities and priorities.