

## **Education and Employment Legislation Committee**

The committee met on Thursday, 21 November 2013 from 9.00 am until 9.00 pm.

The committee called:

- the department and agencies of the Employment portfolio, including the Fair Work Commission, the Fair Work Ombudsman, Safe Work Australia, Comcare, the Office of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate (Fair Work Building and Construction), the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency.

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- the current work by the Fair Work Ombudsman to prevent sham contracting;
- the proposed changes to the Fair Work laws and the operation of the Fair Work Commission;
- the impact of the High Court's recent decision in *Comcare v PVYW [2013] HCA 41*;
- the qualifications of the recently appointed heads of the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency and Fair Work Building and Construction;
- the transfer of some responsibilities from Fair Work Building and Construction to the Fair Work Ombudsman a few days prior to estimates (of which Senators were not aware);
- the establishment of a taskforce within the department for the purpose of re-establishing the Australian Building and Construction Commission.