

Education and Employment Legislation Committee

The committee met on Thursday, 23 October 2014 from 9.02 am to 11.01 pm.

The committee called the department and agencies of the Employment portfolio, including the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, Comcare, Fair Work Building and Construction (FWBC), Fair Work Commission, Safe Work Australia and the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA).

Among other issues, the following matters were discussed:

- staffing numbers across the department and the response time for answers to questions on notice over the past five years
- the investigation conducted into an unauthorised disclosure of information on job numbers
- the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal and the trucking industry in Australia
- decisions made by the Fair Work Commission in the National Wage Case
- the superannuation guarantee rate
- the number of people on the minimum wage in Australia
- the new anti-bullying laws and the number of claims received since the laws were introduced in January 2014
- the financial statements of the Fair Work Commission
- the disclosure log on the Fair Work Ombudsman's website and the Senate order for the production of indexed lists of departmental and agency files (Harradine Motion)
- the classification of independent contractors and sham contracting
- criminal activity in the construction industry and how information is passed onto law enforcement agencies
- the role of the Director of FWBC under the *Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2012* and FWBC's compliance with the Harradine Motion
- staffing arrangements at the Asbestos Safety and Eradication Agency, how the agency interacts with the states and territories, and the strategic plan of the agency
- the costs associated with the WGEA's 'Daughter Water' campaign and how the success of the campaign is being measured
- feedback on the consultation process and barriers that employees faced when providing benchmark reports to the WGEA.