



Australian Government

Fair Work

OMBUDSMAN

414 La Trobe Street
Melbourne, VIC 3000

13 September 2018

Mr Stephen Palethorpe

Secretary

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

eec.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Mr Palethorpe

Answers to Questions on Notice

On Wednesday 25 July 2018, the Fair Work Ombudsman (**FWO**) appeared before the Standing Committee on Education and Employment in Devonport, Tasmania, to provide evidence to the *Inquiry into exploitation of cleaners working in retail chains*.

Following this hearing, on 4 September 2018 you provided the FWO with three written questions on notice, asked by Senator Cameron. Please find below the FWO's responses to these questions.

On behalf of the FWO, I would like to thank you for the continued opportunity to provide evidence to the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Fogarty

Executive Director

Policy, Analysis and Reporting Branch

Fair Work Ombudsman



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Question 1:

What was the approximate cost incurred by FWO in preparing the report: An Inquiry into the procurement of cleaners in Tasmanian supermarkets?

Answer:

The Report was prepared and edited internally by three key Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) officers. These officers dedicated around 300 hours to the preparation of the Report; approximately \$18,000 worth of labour cost.

A number of other key FWO personnel were involved, as required, in reviewing the Report and checking the accuracy of data. It is important that the FWO's Inquiry Reports, which are complex and significant pieces of work, are reviewed at a variety of levels and by a variety of teams to ensure their veracity.

Question 2:

What was the approximate cost incurred by FWO in preparing the Proactive Deed of Compliance with Woolworths on Cleaning Services?

Answer:

The Proactive Compliance Deed was negotiated and prepared by three key FWO officers in consultation with Woolworths. These officers dedicated around 65 hours to the preparation of the Deed, which equates to approximately \$4,000 worth of labour cost.

Question 3:

Did the FWO recover from Woolworths any costs incurred in preparing the Proactive Deed of Compliance with Woolworths on Cleaning Services? If not, why not?

Answer:

The FWO does not seek to recover costs in voluntary arrangements such as a compliance partnership. The activities discussed in questions 1 and 2 were undertaken in fulfilment of the FWO's statutory functions to promote and ensure compliance with the *Fair Work Act 2009*.