

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment
Inquiry into The exploitation of general and specialist cleaners working in retail chains for
contracting or subcontracting cleaning companies

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Australian Taxation Office

14 SEPTEMBER 2018

Department/Agency: ATO

Question: 1

Hansard page: 48

Topic: ATO submission

Question:

Senator CAMERON: When you were asked to attend the inquiry, why didn't you think it was important enough to put in a submission on the issues?

Ms Walwyn: I'm sorry, I can't answer that at the moment. I'm guided by our colleagues in our parliamentary division. It is not that we haven't got an opinion on it, but I thought I was going to be asked questions on cleaning and Phoenix.

Senator CAMERON: There is a wide terms of reference—

Ms Walwyn: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: Who are these colleagues? What level are they at and who are they?

Ms Walwyn: I have a colleague with me from the Black Economy Taskforce.

Senator CAMERON: Mr Bambrick, why didn't you think it was important enough to put in a submission on the issues that we're looking at?

Mr Bambrick: I'll have to take that on notice. It's not something that is in my knowledge or that of my colleague.

Senator CAMERON: On notice, could you also provide details of the SES officer who determined not to put a submission in?

Mr Bambrick: Certainly, Senator. I'll take that on notice.

Answer:

The ATO administers the tax and superannuation systems, to ensure compliance with lodgment, registration, reporting and payment obligations.

While we do monitor employer compliance with PAYGW and superannuation guarantee obligations, regulation of broader workplace laws does not fall within our responsibility.

Deputy Commissioner, Small Business reviewed the terms of reference and, based on this, considered that the most appropriate action for the ATO was to appear at the hearing to cover aspects which relate to ATO administration.

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Question: 2

Hansard page: 49

Topic: Black Economy Taskforce recommendations

Question:

Senator CAMERON: All right. So you're not aware. Will you take it on notice, then, to provide details of the engagement you've had, since the Black Economy Taskforce recommendation, with the trade union movement?

Mr Bambrick: Yes, Senator.

Answer:

The ATO has not developed any formal partnerships or engaged with union bodies with respect to black economy behaviours in the cleaning industry since the Black Economy Taskforce Final Report was delivered.