

Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Legislation Committee

Attorney-General's Department

Hearing date: 23 February 2022

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Senator Van asked the following question:

Senator VAN: What actions has the government previously taken on recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7, 10 and 12?

Ms Yanchenko: If I have my recommendation numbers correctly in my head, those were the provisions that were put to the parliament last year as part of what's known as the SAJAR bill—the Fair Work Amendment (Supporting Australia's Jobs and Economic Recovery) Bill 2020. The particular provisions that would have addressed those recommendations were removed when the bill was debated by the Senate.

Senator VAN: I'm not trying to put words in your mouth, but I'm guessing those provisions weren't removed by government senators.

Ms Yanchenko: I would have to take that on notice. I don't remember who moved the particular amendments, I'm afraid.

The response to the question is as follows:

Schedule 5 of the Fair Work Amendment (Supporting Australia's Jobs and Economic Recovery) Bill 2020 (the Bill) contained provisions that would have implemented recommendations 4, 5, 6, 7, 11(a) and 12 of the Migrant Workers' Taskforce. The Bill as introduced did not have the support of the Senate, so the Government circulated amendments removing Schedule 5 of the Bill. These amendments were passed by the Senate during the Committee of the Whole debate.