

**Senate Economics Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Treasury Portfolio**

Additional Estimates

2016 - 2017

**Division/Agency:** Structural Reform Group

**Question No:** 216

**Topic:** Government Response to PC Report on Industrial Relations

**Reference:** Hansard page 121 (01 March 2017)

**Senator:** Ketter, Chris

**Question:**

Senator KETTER: This next question is probably most appropriately put to the minister. I want to ask about the Productivity Commission report on industrial relations which was released in December 2015. The government promised to respond to that report before the election, and the government still has not responded to that report. Will the government ever formally respond to this review?

Senator McGrath: I think it is best if I take that question on notice.

Senator KETTER: I will also put these on the record as well. What was the point of the view, given that the government appears to have ignored it? How much did the review cost? Why hasn't the government responded to the review? Given that the Fair Work Commission partially adopted the Productivity Commission recommendation on the Sunday rates, does the government consider that it was worthwhile?

Senator McGrath: I will take all those on notice.

**Answer:**

The Government has addressed certain recommendations of the Productivity Commission via the introduction of the Fair Work (Repeal of 4 yearly Reviews and Other Measures) Bill 2017, which was introduced into the House of Representatives on 29 February 2017. This Bill implements recommendations 8.1 and 20.1 of the report.

The Government continues to consider and consult on other recommendations of the Report.

The Productivity Commission inquiries receive funding from the Commission's budgetary allocation and are not individually costed.