

Economics Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Industry and Science Portfolio
2015-16 Budget Estimates
3-4 June 2015

AGENCY/DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY AND SCIENCE

TOPIC: Departmental Dispute Resolution

REFERENCE: Written Question – Senator Ludwig

QUESTION No.: BI-86

1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 - a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.
3. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
4. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 - a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

ANSWER

1. Disputes under the Enterprise Agreement are dealt with in accordance with relevant policies. If mediation is required between staff a mediator is appointed through our Employee Assistance Program (EAP).
2. Mediation services are sourced from Davidson Trahaire Corpsych who are the provider of Employee Assistance Program (EAP) services for the Department.
 - a) Fees are based on an hourly rate.
 - b) \$82.50 per hour + GST.
 - c) 1 July 2013
 - d) 30 June 2016
 - e) The provider of EAP services was selected through open tender. Davidson Trahaire Corpsych provides mediation services in addition to confidential counselling.
 - f) Details of disputes cannot be disclosed due to confidentiality and privacy.
3. Code of Conduct matters are handled in accordance with the policy and other relevant legislation.

4. No external companies were contracted to assist with Code of Conduct processes during 2014-15.