

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000035

Senator McKenzie asked on 26 February 2015 on proof Hansard page 61

Question

FWC - Powers under 581A(1)(b)

Justice Ross: As I have indicated, I will write to him and ask him whether he is engaged in paid work beyond that which is already notified.

CHAIR: Are you aware that Mr Harcourt has put his name to a statement calling the government's savings measures unnecessary and promoting an increase in government program spending, as published by the Australia Institute's self-described progressive think-tank run by Richard Denniss, a former advisor to Greens Bob Brown and chief of staff to Democrat Natasha Stott-Despoja? Are you aware of that?

Justice Ross: I think you can take it that I do not follow his Twitter feed or any of the other stuff.

CHAIR: Why don't we just say the next couple of minutes will be just me giving you more information for your letter.

Justice Ross: Yes, that is fine. If you provide me with the material I am more than happy to undertake the process I have undertaken in the past.

CHAIR: In light of any response that Mr Harcourt gives you after we do a letter, could you also take on notice to actually revisit examining your powers under 581A(1)(b) in terms of maintaining public confidence in the commission?

Justice Ross: Sure.

Answer

The President has written to Mr Harcourt and will consider the matter further when Mr Harcourt's response is received.