

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Agency - Fair Work Building and Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000052

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

Evidence given at Estimates hearings

With regard to the Director of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate's evidence at page 106 of the 2014-15 Supplementary Budget Estimates Proof Committee Hansard of 23 October 2014, which as follows:

Senator CAMERON: But you were of the view, similar to Assistant Commissioner Fontana's statement in paragraph 33, that there was criminal activity of the trade union officials directly and by organised crime figures or groups on behalf of trade union officials.

Mr Hadgkiss: That is my view, yes.

Senator CAMERON: Do you have any evidence of that?

Mr Hadgkiss: Evidence? No, Senator.

and;

The Director of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate's evidence at page 133 of the 2014-15 Additional Budget Estimates Proof Committee Hansard of 26 February 2015, which was as follows:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Do you know of any other associations between these trade union movements and organised crime, whether it be bkie groups or organised criminal activity generally?

Mr Hadgkiss: I certainly do.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you elaborate on that to the extent that it is within 'the knowledge'?

Mr Hadgkiss: There is obviously a huge connection between outlawed motorcycle gangs and particularly the Victorian CFMEU.

What is the evidentiary basis for the Director's assertion made on 26th February 2015 which is completely at odds with his answer given on 23rd October 2014? Has the evidence, if it exists, on which the Director made the assertion on 26th February been referred to Victoria Police for investigation and if so, when was it referred?

Answer

During the 23 October 2014 Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing, immediately following the comments recorded above, the Director, Mr Hadgkiss, stated that he did not have 'evidence' "as it appeared before a court", as set out below, as recorded in Hansard:

Senator CAMERON: But you were of the view, similar to Assistant Commissioner Fontana's statement in paragraph 33, that there was criminal activity of the trade union officials directly and by organised crime figures or groups on behalf of trade union officials.

Mr Hadgkiss: That is my view, yes.

Senator CAMERON: Do you have any evidence of that?

Mr Hadgkiss: Evidence? No, Senator.

Senator CAMERON: 'No, senator'.

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice. The evidence as it appeared before a court—no, I do not.

During the 26 February 2015 hearing, the Director was not asked whether he had 'evidence' as it appeared before a court, rather he was asked if he had 'knowledge', as set out below, as recorded in Hansard:

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Do you know of any other associations between these trade union movements and organised crime, whether it be bikie groups or organised criminal activity generally?

Mr Hadgkiss: I certainly do.

Senator O'SULLIVAN: Can you elaborate on that to the extent that it is within 'the knowledge'?

Mr Hadgkiss: There is obviously a huge connection between outlawed motorcycle gangs and particularly the Victorian CFMEU.