

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Shared Services

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000061

Senator Cameron asked on 10 April 2015 on proof Hansard page 7

Question

Details of prosecutions since 2006

Senator CAMERON: On notice, can you provide details of the prosecutions in relation to the Job Network or Job Services Australia since 2005.

Ms Leon: I will see what we can provide. It will just depend on how detailed the records are the further back we go.

Mr Parsons: 2006.

Senator CAMERON: Why 2006?

Ms Leon: That is when the contract started.

Senator CAMERON: Okay, go to 2006 at this stage. I may change that on notice. Could you provide the title of the proceedings that have been undertaken, the nature of the allegations against the defendants and the results of the prosecutions and any penalties imposed. That should not be too onerous a task.

Ms Leon: We will take that on notice and provide what we can where it is publicly available. There will have been some investigations that were undertaken that the DPP has in the end not proceeded with and so those will not be public. We just will need to be careful about the extent to which we might potentially damage the reputation of companies that in the end were not prosecuted. So we will take that on notice and provide what is appropriate.

Senator CAMERON: That might be okay, Ms Leon, but—

Senator Abetz: I have just checked with the officials. There have also been occasions—and we will try to suss this out as well—where companies have been concerned about an individual's behaviour within their company and advised the department and the matter has proceeded to the police through that mechanism. Where that information is available, we will provide it as well.

Answer

There have been at least two incidents over the past two years where Job Services Australia (JSA) companies have notified the Department of instances where they have detected behavior by their staff that is contrary to our Deed or programme guideline requirements.

In one instance, inappropriate claims that had been lodged by two members of staff were detected by the JSA's internal quality controls. The Department subsequently investigated those claims and recovered funds. This matter is being prepared for referral to the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The other instance involved a breach of the confidentiality of records provisions in our Deed. That matter is currently under investigation. There was no monetary recovery involved.