

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015**

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000070**

**Senator Cameron asked on 10 April 2015 on proof Hansard page 30**

#### **Question**

##### **Governance issues**

Senator CAMERON: What types of governance issues have been red flagged?

Mr Parsons: I probably should take that on notice rather than guess, I think.

Senator CAMERON: There are only four of them. Who is dealing with this?

Mr Parsons: I am dealing with it.

Senator CAMERON: So you do not know what the governance issues are?

Mr Parsons: Not off the top my head, no.

Senator CAMERON: Really?

Mr Parsons: No, not with confidence. I do not want to go on the public record and misstate what the governance concerns are with those two companies. I would rather take it on notice.

#### **Answer**

There are two providers who were offered 12 months contracts because of governance issues.

The department offered these providers shorter contracts in order to give them an opportunity to rectify aspects of their governance as it related to the business that each was awarded.

The issues of concern in respect of the first provider was its ability to upscale existing governance arrangements that are working for a single Harvest Labour region to satisfactorily manage a larger presence across multiple Harvest Labour Regions.

The second provider has only recently undergone Quality Assurance Framework (QAF) certification as part of the Department's QAF pilot. That certification noted several opportunities for improvement that will need to be addressed before the provider attains full QAF certification by 1 July 2016 in line with all providers attaining QAF certification by the same date.