

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2014 - 2015

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000074

Senator Cameron asked on 10 April 2015 on proof Hansard page 17

Question

Number of JSA providers sanctioned

Senator CAMERON: How many JSA providers have been sanctioned for breaches of accountability requirements, contract breaches or fraud in the past five years? Is that still the figure of 38, or does it widen?

Ms Leon: That is only the number that has been referred for prosecution.

Senator CAMERON: How many have been sanctioned for breaches?

Mr Parsons: I would have to take that on notice. I do not think I have that information at hand.

Senator CAMERON: Have any JSA providers ever been banned from participating in the JSA market?

Mr Parsons: There have been three instances in recent times where we have reduced business share of JSA providers. In one of those three cases we chose not to extend a provider in a particular region.

Senator CAMERON: What company was that?

Mr Parsons: I am not sure.

Senator CAMERON: There is only three.

Mr Parsons: Yes, but that was in—

Senator CAMERON: You knew it was three.

Mr Parsons: That was some years ago. It was 2012, from memory.

Senator CAMERON: Okay, take it on notice. I want details on why they were reduced and why they were taken off of the program. In your response to the Four Corners program, you put out a press release where you made a statement that the job seeker should contact the department if they have complaints about fraud or inappropriate conduct by a JSA provider. That was parroted by some of the providers—if there is a problem, go to the department.

Why wouldn't someone who has got some evidence of systemic fraud or fraud not just go to the federal police?

Answer

The department has sanctioned 23 Job Services Australia (JSA) Providers in the past five years for breaches of the Employment Services Deed (the Deed).

Of these, three (3) JSA Providers had their business share reduced and one (1) JSA Provider's NEIS contract was terminated as a result of breaches of the Deed.