

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000035

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

FWO - Seafarers - Identification of employers

Does the FWO ever experience problems identifying the employers in investigations, and could you outline the nature of the problem and the way the FWO addresses those problems?

Answer

Identifying the true employer of an employee is essential to any investigation conducted by the FWO. In instances where the identity of an employer is not clear, Fair Work Inspectors are experienced in gathering information through methods such as examining employment or business records and seeking input from the complainant and others to confirm the identity of the true employer.

For seafaring related complaints, Fair Work Inspectors may also utilise the Equasis website database to obtain information about a particular ship and the ship owner.