

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000072

Senator Johnston asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 89

Question

Payments to unions

Mr Cully: Presumably. The royal commissioner's findings, I think, were that the payments were made and there was not any services or other benefits provided, so, by inference, the payments were made to benefit the relationship with the union.

Senator JOHNSTON: Were the payments made to individuals or to the registered organisation?

Mr Cully: I might have to take that on notice. I think, in most cases, it was to registered organisations.

Answer

In the majority of case studies examined by the Royal Commission where such payments were made, the employer made the payment to a union. There were also a small number of case studies where employers made such payments directly to union officials.