

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. EMSQ16-000092

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

Attendance at Ministerial working group

Senator LINES: Apart from yourself, which other ministers attend this working group?

Senator Cash: Minister O'Dwyer and Minister Dutton.

Senator LINES: Even though the A-G's department is there, Senator Brandis does not attend?

Ms Leon: It is the Minister for Justice who the Attorney General's Department is supporting in the working group.

Senator LINES: My mistake. Mr Keenan has said in response to answers to questions that he has attended one meeting. How many meetings have we had, Ms Parker?

Ms Parker: Three meetings.

Senator LINES: Three since October.

Ms Leon: The attendance of the ministers depends both on what is on the agenda for that meeting and on their own availability. If a particular minister cannot attend, sometimes attendance is by their office and/or by the department.

Senator LINES: For those three meetings, can you tell us which ministers have attended?

Ms Leon: I would have to take that on notice. I do not know that we have the minutes of all of those meetings with us.

Senator LINES: I would like you to tell me which ministers attended the first meeting, which ministers attended the second meeting and which ministers attended the third meeting.

Ms Leon: We will take that on notice.

Answer

- Membership of the Ministerial Working Group on Protecting Vulnerable Visa Holders comprises of Senator the Hon Michaelia Cash, Minister for Employment, the Hon Peter Dutton MP, Minister for Immigration and Border Protection, the Hon Michael Keenan MP, Minister for Justice and the Hon Kelly O'Dwyer MP, Assistant Treasurer.
- There have been four meetings held: 20 October, 15 November and 3 December 2015; and 2 March 2016.
- Attendance at each meeting included:
 - 20 October 2015—Ministers for Employment, Immigration and Border Protection, Justice and the Assistant Treasurer.
 - 15 November 2015—Ministers for Employment, Immigration and Border Protection and the Assistant Treasurer.
 - 3 December 2015 - Ministers for Employment and Immigration and Border Protection.

- 2 March 2016 – Ministers for Employment, Immigration and Border Protection, Justice and the Assistant Treasurer.
- The attendance of the Ministers is dependent on the agenda and their availability. If a Minister does not attend a meeting, they are represented by their office, Department or agency.