

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. EMSQ16-000098

Senator Lines asked on 11 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 124

Question

Advice to other Departments regarding MV Portland and CSL Melbourne

Senator LINES: In relation to the MV Portland and CSL Melbourne, has the department been providing advice to other departments in regard to the information you have been monitoring about those disputes and, if so, which department?

Ms Durbin: Yes, as part of our business as usual process we do engage with other departments on a case-by-case basis.

Senator LINES: I asked you specifically about the MV Portland and CSL Melbourne.

Ms Durbin: In the case of both of those, certainly in the case of MV Portland, we did have ongoing liaison with the Department of Infrastructure, and at times, for some disputes, we also involve other agencies on an as-needed basis.

Senator LINES: So in relation to the MV Portland the only other department that you provided information to was the Department of Infrastructure?

Ms Durbin: I would have to take that on notice. That is certainly the main line agency that we dealt with.

Senator LINES: What sort of advice would you have provided to the Department of Infrastructure?

Ms Durbin: We would just provide updates in terms of our understanding of the industrial dispute.

Senator LINES: Is that based on the phone call you got from ASP? Who else was advised about that phone call that you got from ASP?

Ms Durbin: In that particular context I was talking about our role in the ongoing oversight of the dispute. We primarily started monitoring that dispute in mid-December. That was when the first Fair Work Commission order was handed down. In terms of the particular case that we are talking about for 12 January, we did not pass that information on to any other department.

Senator LINES: Okay. But you think in relation to the MV Portland and CSL Melbourne—or just MV Portland—you provided information to the Department of Infrastructure.

Ms Durbin: My understanding is: in both cases.

Senator LINES: Right. And you are going to take on notice who else you might have provided information to?

Ms Durbin: Yes.

Answer

The Department of Employment had regular contact with the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development regarding the *MV Portland* and *CSL Melbourne* matters.