

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Building and Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000122

Senator Rice asked on 12 February 2016 on proof Hansard page 15

Question

FWBC - penalties imposed from court proceedings

Senator RICE: Yes. What is the total amount of penalties that have been imposed so far on individual employees arising out of FWBC initiated court proceedings?

Mr Corney: In respect of the first six months of 2015-16, the court has issued penalties of \$856,475 in respect of FWBC cases.

Mr Hadgkiss: Since 1 July, there has been \$856,475 in penalties, 94 per cent of which is against the CFMEU. That represents a figure of \$805,225 against the CFMEU and its officials.

Mr Corney: The senator's question was in respect of individual employees, and I will need to take that on notice.

Senator RICE: Thank you.

Answer

Since 1 June 2012, when FWBC commenced operation, there has only been a single matter involving employees as respondents which was initiated by FWBC and in which penalties have been imposed. This matter is the Director of the Fair Work Building Industry Inspectorate v Merx and Ors. In this case 22 employees admitted their liability and were ordered to pay penalties of \$1,000 each.

Since 1 June 2012, there was another matter, in which penalties were awarded against employees. However, this was a legacy matter commenced by the ABCC.