

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000136

Senator Lines asked on 01 June 2015 on proof Hansard pages 120-122

Question

Cleaners' wages

Senator LINES: No. I am asking you to take it on notice, because you have not clarified it to my satisfaction. I am asking you to take on notice that you said: Senator Abetz has said at Senate estimates that cleaners' wages may be reduced at contract change—that is what you said.

CHAIR: Do you have the date for that, Senator Lines

Ms Leon: I have just advised that evidence, Senator.

Senator LINES: I know that, but not to my satisfaction. I am simply asking you to review.

Ms Leon: I cannot understand what you wish of me.

Senator LINES: I am asking you to review—

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Senator LINES: Let us be clear what I would really like Ms Leon to do. Ms Leon just said to me, 'I'll take it on notice and I'll give you the response I have just given to you'—which I have said about four times does not satisfy me. So I am asking you to be fair and impartial and to look at the *Hansard*. Maybe I misheard, Ms Leon, but it seemed to me that you directly implied that Senator Abetz had said at these estimates previously that cleaners would suffer a loss in pay at contract change. That is what I heard you say. I might be incorrect.

CHAIR: Senator Lines—

Senator LINES: I have not finished yet, Senator McKenzie.

CHAIR: Get to the question rather than the badgering, thanks.

Senator LINES: I am asking you to review that statement and either correct it—

Ms Leon: I just did.

Senator LINES: or withdraw it. No, you have not done it to my satisfaction.

CHAIR: Ms Leon, the last three words I heard out of your mouth prior to this last question from Senator Lines was that you would take it on notice.

Ms Leon: Yes, Chair.

CHAIR: Yes. So we are all clear, Ms Leon is taking your last question, Senator Lines, on notice.

Ms Leon: Yes.

CHAIR: Thank you. Next question.

Answer

Both the Minister and the department have provided evidence about this matter at previous estimates. The relevant references are:

- Hansard, Senate Standing Committee on Education and Training, 3 June 2014, pages 143-147
- Hansard, Senate Standing Committee on Education and Training, 10 April 2015, page 74