

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. EMSQ15-000146

Senator Lines asked on 02 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 111

Question

Employers seeking the Department's assessment of enterprise agreements

Senator LINES: Yes. How do they get to know they can opt in? Do you invite them? Have they been invited to come in?

Ms Parker: No. The government announced and put out the code publicly and then the requirements around it were made public on 24 April 2014, as you know. Then employers can choose to decide whether to alter their agreements to comply with the code and they do not have to, so that makes it an opt-in scheme. Obviously, if they do not comply, they cannot tender for government work—once the legislation comes in and if their agreements do not comply after 24 April 2014. It is only Commonwealth government funded work that they have to comply for this purpose.

Senator LINES: How many have opted in?

Ms Parker: I can tell you how many have asked the department to assess their—

Senator LINES: You give that to me on notice.

Answer

Since the advance release of the Building and Construction Industry (Fair and Lawful Building Sites) Code 2014 on 17 April 2014, the Department of Employment has received 362 applications for an assessment of whether a draft enterprise agreement complies with the Code as at 2 June 2015.