

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000160

Senator McKenzie asked on 02 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 141

#### Question

##### FWC - Union posters on FWC premises

CHAIR: In the interest of calmness from committee members, I will simply table a copy of the blog post rather than read it out. Are you aware of any such political posters being displayed within the commission's premises in Melbourne?

Ms O'Neill: Yes, I am. They are some CPSU posters that appear to have been produced centrally and distributed widely. I cannot recall the number off the top of my head—I would have to take that on notice—but a small number have been posted by, presumably, delegates in private areas.

CHAIR: Private areas?

Ms O'Neill: Yes.

CHAIR: Not in the kitchen?

Ms O'Neill: In a private kitchen. They are not in any public-facing areas at all. Just to be clear, I communicated to all staff making it clear—and I think this goes without saying, but I want it to be clear—that those posters do not in any way represent or reflect any support by management of the commission for any of the views contained therein.

CHAIR: When we have posters that are talking about anti-Abbott-government rallies et cetera, that is—

Ms O'Neill: I am not sure. My recollection is that it is essentially a poster about the bargaining—

CHAIR: If you do get a chance to look at the Sloan blog it is actually an ACTU poster, not a CPSU poster, about the anti-Abbott government rallies.

Ms O'Neill: I do not believe that any of those have been posted on our premises.

CHAIR: Thank you, but would you endeavour to provide that on notice?

Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice.

#### Answer

The ACTU poster pictured in the blog post tabled by Senator McKenzie has not, to the General Manager's knowledge, been displayed within the Commission's premises in Melbourne.

In some non-public areas at the Commission premises such as staff kitchens, CPSU posters concerning the current enterprise bargaining process have been posted by CPSU members, employed by the Commission.

On 4 March 2015, all Members and staff were advised that "the posters have been produced by the CPSU and that any opinions or characterizations of fact are those of the CPSU alone and do not represent the Commission's views."