

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

#### Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000166

Senator Sterle asked on 02 June 2015 on proof Hansard page 19

#### Question

##### FWC - Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal

Senator STERLE: I only have a few questions to the ombudsman. I am sorry that I do not have the figure in front of me, but I believe that there has been a budget commitment of \$1 million plus to the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal this year. I should have done my homework, but the chair is more efficient than me!

Ms James: You may well be correct in that. Subject to Mr Scully finding a line item in the PBS, I might take the exact figure on notice. I will say that we do have an ongoing role with regard to the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal and we are happy to talk about our activities with regard to that function.

Senator STERLE: Fantastic. I just want to know what detail the extra \$1 million plus will—

CHAIR: Senator Sterle, I have just been advised that the best place to ask this is with the commission rather than the ombudsman.

#### Answer

- The Fair Work Commission (FWC) is not aware of the budget commitment of “\$1 million plus to the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal this year” that the Senator is referring to.
- Section 112(1) of the *Road Safety Remuneration Act 2012* (Cth) requires the General Manager of the FWC to assist the President of the Road Safety Remuneration Tribunal (RSRT) in ensuring that the RSRT performs its functions efficiently and effectively. Subsection (2) provides the General Manager with the power to do all things necessary or convenient to be done for the purpose of performing her function.
- The FWC receives an annual appropriation to support the RSRT:

Year	Appropriation
2014–15	\$2.495m
2015–16	\$2.418m

The above amounts are subject to a series of efficiency dividends.

- The RSRT’s staffing and support is drawn from the FWC using an integrated model of service delivery. It was decided that this model provided a more efficient use of resources. Staffing and support include:

– IT services

- Human resources services
- Communications and media support
- Research
- Library
- Legal services; and
- Administration.

The FWC is not able to comment on any annual departmental appropriation received by the Fair Work Ombudsman in respect of the RSRT.