

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Cross Portfolio

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000232

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

Departmental Dispute Resolution

1. How are disputes between departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:

1. The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
2. Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
3. When the contract with the firm commenced.
4. When the contract with the firm will expire.
5. Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
6. Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

Answer

The Department response to disputes between staff is determined having regard to the particular circumstances. In some instances the Department does arrange for mediation to occur, which is facilitated by a suitably qualified person either internal to the Department or from an outside firm.

Between 31 May 2014 and 31 May 2015 no outside firms were contracted to assist the Department to facilitate a mediation process.