

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Safe Work Australia

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000239

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

SWA - 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

1. Requirements for mediating disputes are contained in Part S of the *Safe Work Australia Enterprise Agreement 2011-2014*. Stage one requires parties to first attempt to resolve the matter at the workplace level through discussions. Stage two involves discussions with more senior levels of management and may also involve an outside mediation firm.
2. No.