

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016**

**Agency - Fair Work Building and Construction**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000241**

**Senator Ludwig provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **FWBC - 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. Disputes are dealt with in accordance with appropriate procedures for the relevant Tribunal or Authority.
2. Yes. Ashurst
  - 2.1. An order for legal services is prepared for each separate occasion
  - 2.2. \$18,137.45
  - 2.3. N/A
  - 2.4. N/A
  - 2.5. Ashurst have vast experience in the provision of quality legal service in the industrial relations arena.
  - 2.6 Two referrals relating to the Human Rights Commission and two referrals relating to the Fair Work Commission.