

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Workplace Gender Equality Agency

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000255

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

WGEA - Code of Conduct

1. How are code of conduct violations by departmental and/or agency staff mediated?
2. Are any outside firms contracted to assist with this process? If yes: please list them, please include:
 - a) The structure of payments made to each firm (e.g. retainers, fees for each consultation etc).
 - b) Amount paid to each firm since the last budget.
 - c) When the contract with the firm commenced.
 - d) When the contract with the firm will expire.
 - e) Why the firm was selected to provide the service.
 - f) Please provide a list of disputes referred to the firm, including a brief description of the dispute.

Answer

1. Since the establishment of the Workplace Gender Equality Agency (WGEA) in 2012 there have been no allegations of violation of the APS Code of Conduct. Agency procedures outline that the process for determining whether a WGEA employee has breached the Code of Conduct must be carried out with as little formality and as much expedition as a proper consideration of the matter allows. Mediation could be one option for the resolution of matters but it has not been necessary to pursue this action.
2. No.
(a-f). Not applicable.