

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004131

Senator Cameron asked on 30 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 38

Question

FWO – number of compliance officers

Senator CAMERON: How many compliance officers do you have?

Ms James: We have a number of staff who are involved in compliance. I will just look up that figure.

Senator CAMERON : Are they inspectors or compliance officers? What is the difference?

Ms James : Inspectors exist formally under the Fair Work Act. They are formally appointed as inspectors and they exercise some compliance powers under the Fair Work Act.

Senator CAMERON: You use the term 'compliance', but that is not what they are under the act. Is that correct?

Ms James : Under the act they are called 'fair work inspectors'. There are a number of our staff whom we would say are involved in aspects of compliance activities who may or may not be inspectors, but when it comes to a formal investigation—sitting down, records of interview, people who would write notices to produce, as we are able to under the act, to seek evidence—it would be a fair work inspector carrying out those functions.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman had 185 Fair Work Inspectors at 1 June 2017.