Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004142

Senator Cameron asked on 30 May 2017 on proof Hansard page 46

Question

FWO - Coastal shipping - the Fair Work Ombudsman's relationship with other regulators

Senator CAMERON: How can they feel the full force of the law if the Fair Work Ombudsman is not doing any systematic analysis of the problems, even when it finds that there are seafarers paid as low as \$1.25?

Senator Cash: Senator Cameron, I do not believe that was the evidence given by either Ms James or Mr Campbell. If you would like them to represent their evidence to you, Mr Campbell please feel free to.

Senator CAMERON: Where is the systematic analysis?

Mr Campbell: This is not a sector which drives a lot of complaints to us. We need to be connected with organisations and other bodies involved in the regulation of coastal trading in shipping. We invest time and effort doing that. I am happy to provide some information about our relationships with other regulators in this space.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) has well established relationships with the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIPB), the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development and Geoscience Australia to share information and intelligence about the sector.

Our Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with both AMSA and DIBP underpin this relationship and the processes for sharing information and referring potential breaches between the agencies.