

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Budget Estimates 2017 - 2018

#### Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-004268

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

#### Question

##### Work for the Dole Host - SORT Recycling

- Does the Department know how many people who worked for SORT Recycling are unpaid?
- When will the employees be paid?
- Has the acquittal process been changed to prevent this from happening again?

#### Answer

The Department does not have any contractual relationship with SORT Recycling Limited (SORT). The Department does not have information about the number of employees of SORT who may have been unpaid or when these employees will be paid. The Department is aware that some claims from former employees of unpaid employee entitlements are being investigated by the Fair Work Ombudsman.

The Department has, however, been working with *jobactive* providers and SORT to finalise the acquittal process for a number of Work for the Dole group based activities hosted by SORT. Additional payments are being made to SORT by *jobactive* providers. The Department has been advised by SORT that it will give priority to the payment of outstanding employee entitlements upon receipt of payments from providers.

The Department has reminded *jobactive* providers that they must meet Deed and Guideline requirements in relation to acquittals.

The Department has reviewed the acquittal arrangements in consultation with *jobactive* providers. Guidance material has been amended to clarify the evidentiary requirements for acquittal of fees for group-based Work for the Dole activities. The Department has also expanded the detail in the host organisation agreement template on the documentary evidence requirements to support the expenditure of Work for the Dole fees. In addition, to complement the information provided to them by Work for the Dole Coordinators and *jobactive* providers when developing activities, the Department is releasing a Host Handbook to provide information for eligible organisations about the requirements for hosting a Work for the Dole activity. The Handbook includes information about the documentary evidence requirements for the acquittal process.