

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Building and Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000276

Senator Cameron asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 85

Question

FWBC - Details of referrals to employer associations

Senator CAMERON: So, out of 3,035 inquiries—10 to the ATO, 22 to workplace agencies, 40 to employer associations—what were they?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will have to take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: What would you be sending, in general terms?

Mr Hadgkiss: It could be a complaint about a drainpipe over somebody's back fence or something. I do not know.

Senator CAMERON: A what?

Mr Hadgkiss: It could be a complaint about a building defect.

Senator CAMERON: About a drainpipe?

Mr Hadgkiss: Well, I just picked that out of the air.

Senator CAMERON: If you are just picking it out of the air—

Mr Hadgkiss: I am not sure. I would imagine—

Senator CAMERON: I really do not want you, Mr Hadgkiss, picking things out of the air. You are a public officer.

CHAIR: And you are an apologist.

Senator CAMERON: You should not come here and pick things out of the air.

Mr Hadgkiss: I cannot explain for a number of employer associations. I would imagine it has something to do with building permits. As I said, it could be drainpipes or it could be the size of spark plugs. I really do not know, Senator. I will take it on notice if you want a breakdown of those.

Senator CAMERON: What came into my mind there was, 'Fair dinkum?!' Anyway, let me get back to this. Can you, on notice, provide details of the referrals to the employer associations?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: What they were about, when you made them and what employer association you made them to—right?

Mr Hadgkiss: Yes.

Senator CAMERON:

Answer

The 2014–15 Annual Report lists that there were 3,035 enquiries.

2014–15 referrals to the Australian Taxation Office:

Issue	Number
Tax	7
Independent Contractor / Sham Contracting	4
Superannuation	3
Wages & Entitlements	3
Wrong Number / Contact	1
Total	18

2014–15 referrals to workplace agencies:

Issue	Number
Licensing / Permits	3
Wrong Number / Contact	3
State Code Information	3
Wages & Entitlements	2
Agreements	1
Right of Entry	1
Workplace health and safety	1
Total	14

2014–15 referrals to Employer Associations:

Issue	Number
Licensing / Permits	3
Domestic Building	3
Workplace health and safety	2
Wages & Entitlements	1
Contractual Disputes	1
General Code Information	1
Total	11

Of the 11 referrals to Employer Associations:

- seven were referred to Master Builders Australia
- two were referred to HIA
- one was referred to Master Painters Association
- one was referred to Workcover (note – Workcover was inadvertently recorded as an employee association by an investigator in the database).