

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. EMSQ15-000277

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

Question

FWBC - Outcomes from investigations into alleged contraventions

Senator CAMERON: One hundred and ninety-six had 'no further action' information recorded. Why was there no further action?

Mr Hadgkiss: Because it was deemed not necessary to take any further action.

Senator CAMERON: So there were no criminal activities?

Mr Hadgkiss: I would think not.

Senator CAMERON: So there were no breaches of the Fair Work Act?

Mr Hadgkiss: I would imagine if there had been that they would have been reported to the appropriate authorities.

Senator CAMERON: So that is nearly 25 per cent of the total—

Mr Hadgkiss: Yes.

Senator CAMERON: with nothing? Zilch?

Mr Hadgkiss: It would be outside the jurisdiction of our agency.

Senator CAMERON: So it is outside the jurisdiction. So then, provide me with details of the issues that were outside your jurisdiction that had no further action—could you give me some details on those?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take those on notice.

Senator CAMERON: In 68 instances you are unable to provide assistance—what was that about?

Mr Hadgkiss: We just could not help the people concerned.

Senator CAMERON: Was that because they were outside your jurisdiction?

Mr Hadgkiss: I am not sure. There could be a multitude of reasons.

Senator CAMERON: Well it is in your report, so could you provide details of why you could not help those people?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Okay. Fifty-three were 'referred to other agency'—what were they?

Mr Hadgkiss: Again, I will take those on notice if you wish.

Answer

An enquiry is recorded as 'no further action' because it is either not of sufficient detail or relevance to warrant an investigation or audit, or has been provided for information purposes only.

The table below relates to the calls where FWBC was unable to provide assistance:

Wrong numbers/abusive/ nuisance callers	39
Domestic building or contractual matters	18
Generally outside jurisdiction	6
Other	5
Total	68

53 enquiries were referred to other agencies, as set out in the table below:

Domestic building disputes/licensing/permits (various state bodies)	22
Federal Department or Agency	20
Employer Association	11
Total	53