

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. EMSQ15-000309

Senator Cameron asked on 22 October 2015 on proof Hansard page 104

Question

FWBC - Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum

Senator CAMERON: That is fine. What input has the fair work building commission had to the Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum?

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Senator CAMERON: Is there anyone who can tell me?

Mr Hadgkiss: I assume they have documented minutes of each meeting. Whether they are publicly available I do not know.

Senator CAMERON: Do you get any reports back on the activities of the Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum?

Mr Hadgkiss: If I needed to be notified I would be. But I do not recall anything—

Senator CAMERON: Can you provide details, file notes, correspondence and internal minutes that relate to your involvement in the Inter-Agency Phoenix Forum.

Mr Hadgkiss: I would have to get the agreement of the other agencies, particularly the tax office.

Senator CAMERON: You may have to do that.

Mr Hadgkiss: I will take that on notice.

Answer

FWBC's involvement in the Inter Agency Phoenix Forum has involved assisting with developing a common understanding of the impact of phoenix activity in the building and construction industry, examining mechanisms to facilitate the exchange of information between government agencies.

The file notes, correspondence and internal minutes refer to employees of, and in many cases are also the property of, other Government departments, agencies and non-Government organisations. As FWBC does not have a coordinating role within the forum, the process of contacting each relevant party and obtaining their agreement to provide each requested document would be an unreasonable diversion of agency resources.