

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2015 - 2016

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ15-000399

Senator Lines provided in writing.

Question

FWO - Trends in relation to compliance

Ms James, since your appointment, do you see any trends developing in relation to compliance? For example, are we seeing an increase in underpayments etc? What's been the most often occurring type of compliance breach? I believe one in ten complaints are now coming from visa holders?

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman measures the seriousness of non-compliance by the potential impact it has on an individual, group or market and we regularly review our compliance priorities to meet the changing needs of the Australian community.

Information about the Fair Work Ombudsman's compliance activities and compliance priorities are outlined on pages 21–45 of the Fair Work Ombudsman's 2014–2015 Annual Report. This includes data about activities from 2012–2013 onwards.

In 2014–15, we assisted parties involved in over 25,000 workplace disputes and recovered more than \$22.3 million in back-payments. These recoveries are consistent with recoveries in previous years.

Of the 25,000 workplace disputes assisted during the year, 18,468 were formal allegations of non-compliance received through a dispute form. The majority of disputes concerned minimum wages and conditions, consistent with previous years.

Of the dispute forms received in 2014–15, 26 per cent were from young workers (aged 25 years or younger) and 10 per cent were from overseas workers.

Almost 80 per cent of the total 25,000 matters assisted by the Fair Work Ombudsman during 2014–15 were addressed through dispute resolution processes. Enforcement action was taken in 558 cases.

The Fair Work Ombudsman's 2014-2015 Annual Report is available at www.fairwork.gov.au/about-us/reports-and-submissions/annual-reports.