

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000847

Senator Di Natale provided in writing.

Question

Migrant Workers Taskforce -7-Eleven

With reference to the Minister's recent announcement establishing the Migrant Workers Taskforce.

<https://ministers.employment.gov.au/cash/coalition-delivers-election-commitment-protect-migrant-workers>

- What is the current status of 7-Eleven action in relation to underpaid workers?
- How widespread do you think this problem is?

Answer

What is the current status of 7-Eleven action in relation to underpaid workers?

7-Eleven has a website on its Wage Repayment Program that publishes progress on claim determinations: www.wagerepaymentprogram.com.au/.

The Migrant Workers' Taskforce (the Taskforce) Terms of Reference include monitoring progress by 7-Eleven in rectifying its breaches.

The Chair of the Taskforce, Professor Allan Fels AO, released a public statement advising that the Taskforce will write to 7-Eleven seeking information about its repayment program and its plans for compliance with workplace laws.

How widespread do you think this problem is?

While it is difficult to quantify the exact degree of migrant worker underpayments across the economy, the Fair Work Ombudsman has reported that between July 2012 and June 2016, it has dealt with over 8,000 requests for assistance from visa workers and recovered more than \$7 million in outstanding wages and entitlements.