

## 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. EMSQ16-000851

Senator Di Natale provided in writing.

#### Question

##### **Migrant Workers - increased powers of the Fair Work Ombudsman**

With reference to some of the other actions announced by the government in relation to migrant workers:

Strengthening the powers of the Fair Work Ombudsman so that it can more effectively deal with employers who intentionally exploit workers by compelling them to produce information and answer questions.

- What is the timeline for this?
- What is the process?

#### Answer

A bill to implement the Government's Protecting Vulnerable Workers Policy is currently being drafted. It will include the policy to strengthen the powers of the Fair Work Ombudsman so that it can more effectively deal with employers who intentionally exploit workers by compelling them to produce information and answer questions.

The Government expects to introduce this legislation in the 2017 Autumn sittings of Parliament.

Consultations to inform the development of the bill were held with representatives from employer groups, unions, community groups and academics on 24 and 25 October 2016.

In accordance with standard practice, amendments are being made to the *Fair Work Act 2009*, a draft bill will be considered by a meeting of the Committee on Industrial Legislation in early December 2016.