

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000868**

**Senator Cameron asked on 26 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 98**

#### **Question**

#### **FWO - Allegations of visa holders subjected to sexual harassment and health and safety violations**

Senator CAMERON: You also indicated that visa holders have been subjected to sexual harassment and grave health and safety violations.

Ms James: That is information that came to us throughout the inquiry. Those are, of course, not matters within the Fair Work Ombudsman's jurisdiction—

CHAIR: No, they are not.

Ms James: and when we hear those sorts of things, we refer them to the relevant authorities.

CHAIR: And have they been, in this case?

Ms James: I believe we would have. Again, a lot of the work we did—say, for example, the survey work—was not investigation work, if you like. If we had those sorts of examples come to us in the course of an investigation, we would refer them. I can take on notice whether there are any specific cases—

CHAIR: I think for Senator Cameron—and yes, the report itself—to make some of the statements, you need to be careful about the veracity that.

#### **Answer**

In the course of engagements during the 417 Working Holiday Visa Inquiry, some stakeholders volunteered information regarding concerns about sexual harassment and safety. These stakeholders included:

- Anti-discrimination Commission Queensland;
- Willing Workers on Organic Farms;
- Australian Meat Industry Employees Union;
- Cairns Police Liaison Officers; and
- Farmstay Hidden Valley.

Some respondents to the Inquiry's market research survey also anonymously provided their experiences with sexual harassment, sexual favours in exchange for 'sign off' of their second year visa and unsafe situations.

The Fair Work Ombudsman did not make any referrals with respect to allegations of sexual harassment as the information secured by the Inquiry through the agency of either the survey responses or stakeholder intelligence was either anonymous or lacking particulars.