

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-000879

Senator McKenzie asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 109

Question

FWO - Report - consultation of peak farming bodies

CHAIR: Sure. So I can take it that you did not contact any of the peak farming bodies in writing this report?

Ms James: I would not assume that. I am happy to take that on notice.

CHAIR: Well, mate, you have got a lot of unions; you have got maybe the Meat Industry Training Advisory Council. It is something obviously missed out. I know for a fact that the National Farmers' Federation, thanks to the work of the Harvest Trail and a whole lot of things that have been going on in this area, have been doing a lot of work. I am just wondering why it never occurred to you in the construction of this report to contact the farmers' bodies.

Ms James: I would not assume that we have not engaged with the Farmers' Federation on this.

CHAIR: Could you tell me how you have?

Ms James: I am happy to take that on notice. I do not have that information to hand.

Answer

In order to avoid duplication of the work and consultation involved in the Fair Work Ombudsman's ongoing Harvest Trail Inquiry, and due to the different engagement methodology adopted, the 417 Working Holiday Visa Inquiry did not engage directly with peak farming bodies including the National Farmers Federation.

See ESQ16-000878 for more information on the Inquiry's engagement methodology.