

## 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. EMSQ16-000898

Senator Cameron asked on 19 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 6

#### Question

#### Victorian Firefighting Volunteers

Senator CAMERON: Okay. So you do not know who organised the ACT fire truck?

Senator Cash: No.

Senator CAMERON: It was your office?

Senator Cash: I would need to seek that information. No, we would not have organised it. It would be organised through the CFA. But I can make those inquiries for you.

Senator CAMERON: Through the CFA?

Senator Cash: I will make those inquiries for you, because I am not sure of the process that was used.

Senator CAMERON: What, the CFA in Victoria?

Senator Cash: As I said—

Senator CAMERON: Why would they be organising an ACT fire truck?

Senator Cash: Because, as you know, volunteers across Australia were united in terms of the government's approach to passing the CFA legislation.

Senator CAMERON: I do not need the rhetoric. I am just after the process.

CHAIR: No, the truth, Senator Cameron. It is not rhetoric.

Senator CAMERON: You are saying it was the CFA. So who in the CFA organised this?

Senator Cash: What I will do, Senator Cameron, is, if you can tell me what questions you would like answered, I will seek a response from my staff and come back to you shortly.

Senator CAMERON: I need to know the level of the staff—no need to tell me the person—who organised the ACT fire truck.

Senator Cash: Again, it was not my staff. And, when I say 'the CFA', my interpretation is CFA volunteers.

Senator CAMERON: Someone in your office must have spoken to the CFA.

Senator Cash: I will seek that information for you.

Senator CAMERON: Okay. I am asking: who in your office engaged with the CFA?

Senator Cash: Sorry—the CFA volunteers, just to be clear.

Senator CAMERON: You said the CFA firstly.

Senator Cash: I used 'the CFA' for the volunteers.

Senator CAMERON: That is why I was so concerned.

Senator Cash: Sorry, Senator Cameron. It was the CFA volunteers.

Senator CAMERON: It was the CFA volunteers. When you said that there was permission, who advised you that there was permission? If that was someone in your office then who advised that someone in your office? Was there any correspondence, file notes or details of telephone calls in relation to the organisation of this ACT fire truck? Are you aware that the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services indicated that there was no permission granted to the volunteers to use one of the fire trucks at the media event?

Senator Cash: I will take all of that on notice. I will speak to my staff.

Senator CAMERON: Are you aware? I am not the staff, I am asking you.

Senator Cash: No, I was not.

Senator CAMERON: You did not know?

Senator Cash: No.

Senator CAMERON: Did you just fronted for the pictures?

Senator Cash: No, I actually fronted to support the tens of thousands of men and women across Australia who put their lives on the line.

Senator PATERSON: It was a very enjoyable event.

Senator Cash: Thank you.

Senator CAMERON: When will you be able to come back to me?

Senator Cash: Shortly. I have my staff listening in.

### **Answer**

The truck was not arranged by the Government. The Government has every confidence that the truck was provided in an appropriate manner.