

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. EMSQ16-000906

Senator Cameron asked on 26 October 2016 on proof Hansard page 76

Question

How Many Court Actions From the Royal Commission Have Been Thrown Out

Senator CAMERON: How many criminal convictions have there been arising from the royal commission?

Ms Parker: A criminal conviction takes a long time, so I suspect we do not have any yet.

...

Senator CAMERON: How many court actions arising from the royal commission have been thrown out?

Ms Anderson: A lot of the referrals are still in progress.

Senator CAMERON: I bet there have been some before the courts that have been thrown out, have there not?

Ms Leon: We can take that on notice.

Answer

The Joint Police Taskforce has commenced legal proceedings (either by way of arrest or Court Attendance Notice) against 11 persons. As at 1 November 2016, the outcome of legal proceedings against 10 of the defendants is as follows:

- 5 defendants found guilty of a range of Commonwealth and State based offences
- 3 matters against persons charged did not proceed
- 2 defendants were found not guilty (or charges dismissed by the court).

The eleventh defendant, Katherine Jackson, is currently before the court and has been charged with 70 counts of theft and deception offences totalling \$502,901.00 in contravention of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Victoria). The matter has been scheduled for mention dated 24 January 2017.

There are also two matters arising from referrals from the interim report of the Royal Commission in the middle of court proceedings. Two defendants (CFMEU officials John Setka and Shaun Reardon) are currently before court in Victoria charged with blackmail offences in contravention of section 87 of the *Crimes Act 1958* (Victoria).