

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Supplementary Budget Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ16-001078

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

Question

Work for the Dole Incident - NEATO Work Health and Safety Practices

- What workplace health and safety concerns did the Department have about NEATO, the service provider involved in the incident, before the incident?
- Were they ever asked to improve their workplace health and safety practices they apply within the Work for the Dole contract they were working to?
- Did they respond satisfactorily to the directions?
- Did the results of Department monitoring of NEATO's workplace health and safety practices within the Work for the Dole contract subsequently improve?

Answer

The Department monitors compliance with work health and safety requirements through a range of ongoing contract management and program assurance activities. The Department has been satisfied with Neato's responses and actions to areas of improvement in work health and safety practices that have been identified at Work for the Dole activities.

In September 2015 an incident occurred at a Neato Work for the Dole activity. Neato informed the Department of the immediate steps taken and confirmed that they reviewed and updated the risk assessment for the activity.

Between October and December 2015 Neato was one of a number of providers included in the Department's Rolling Random Sample reviews of Work for the Dole risk assessments (Place). Neato responded to the findings of these audits detailing the action that they had taken including a review of their risk assessment templates and updating as required the individual risk assessments for the activities that had been part of the audit.

Neato, along with other organisations which had sourced Work for the Dole activities, were informed at the time and sent the results of onsite audits undertaken by Ernst & Young of a sample of activities in the first half of 2016. Neato has addressed the matters raised.