

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

ADDITIONAL ESTIMATES HEARING : 24 March 2017

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

**(AE17/288) - Investigating media cases with the Fair Work Ombudsman -
Programme 2.3: Visas**

Senator Pratt, Louise (L&CA) written:

Has the Department and FWO been investigating the numerous cases of exploitation that have been reported in the media recently?

Answer:

The Department is unable to confirm investigative activity without details of specific cases. However, the Department is investigating a number of matters recently reported in the media; for example, allegations against a pizza franchise.

If the Department receives, or is made aware of, an allegation in relation to foreign worker exploitation, the allegation is assessed and may be subject to further investigation.

The Department works closely with the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) and other agencies to address organised visa fraud and the exploitation of foreign workers. The FWO also undertakes investigations independently to the Department. Details should be sought from the FWO in relation to investigations undertaken that do not involve the Department.