

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARING : 26 May 2015

IMMIGRATION AND BORDER PROTECTION PORTFOLIO

(BE15/085) - Integrity of working Holiday Visas - Programme 2.3: Visas

Senator Carr, Kim (L&CA 72) asked:

Senator KIM CARR: So you can tell me how many unions you have consulted in the last 12 months?

Mr Outram: I cannot. I will have to come back to you on that. Whether we have that information available—

Senator KIM CARR: You must have it. You must be able to tell me which organisations you have talked to in the last 12 months about compliance activity?

Mr Outram: With due respect, Senator, it depends. Communication can be a phone call. We have several thousand employees in our department speaking to people regularly. It can be very informal communication like that; all the way through to a high-level meeting between the secretary and the head of the union. Do we keep dedicated records about those communications?

Senator KIM CARR: How many formal meetings have you had with industrial organisations, be they employers or unions, in regard to compliance activity—whether it be the backpacker visa or student visa or any other compliance activity in relation to labour hire?

Senator KIM CARR: So you would be able to tell me if you have had any correspondence from trade unions, in regard to compliance activity?

Senator Cash: We said we will take that on notice.

Mr Outram: Yes, we will take that on notice. Can I also come back to you with some examples—again, not definitive numbers—of compliance activities targeting the agricultural sector that we have undertaken?

Answer:

Meetings and correspondence with unions is generally undertaken by the Department's operational network as appropriate and details of these engagements cannot be readily collated.