

Senate Standing Committee on Economics

ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Treasury Portfolio

Budget Estimates

1 June – 3 June 2010

Question: BET 73

Topic: Horticulture Code of Conduct

Hansard Page: E96 (02/06/2010)

Senator JOYCE asked:

Senator JOYCE—Can the commission indicate how many complaints it has received in relation to the Horticulture Code of Conduct since the last estimates, so we do not go back to 1974?

CHAIR—November?

Senator JOYCE—Since the last estimates.

CHAIR—February.

Senator JOYCE—I do not care—whichever one makes it convenient. Just give me a number.

Mr Samuel—Well, it had better be an accurate number.

Senator JOYCE—We are going all right so far. We just had a substantial lessening of competition test in section 46, so that was a big advancement. I will put that in the act tomorrow.

Mr Cassidy—Again, I do not think we have a figure since the last estimates. So we had better take that on notice.

Senator JOYCE—You had better take that on notice as well.

Answer:

In the period between 10 February 2010 (the date of the ACCC's Additional Estimates 2009–10 hearing) and 30 June 2010 the ACCC received 14 contacts in relation to the Horticulture Code of Conduct. Of these 14 contacts, 11 were complaints. The majority concerned non-payment to a grower party to a produce agreement, or where no agreement was in existence.