

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Agency *Fair Work Ombudsman*

DEEWR Question No. **EW630_10**

Senator Bilyk asked on 21 October 2009, EEWL Hansard page 68.

Question

Outcome of audit activities carried out at the Taste of Tasmania and Festivale festivals in Tasmania concerning casual workers

Mr LOIZIDES—In Tasmania we also have recovered significant outcomes in that regard. For example, in just this financial year we have conducted three campaigns in Tasmania. We have done an apprenticeship audit with Skills Tasmania to ensure compliance with the act and the training contract requirements. We have also done an educative program with the employers—for example, at the Taste of Tasmania and the Festivale in northern Tasmania—as a follow-up to audits undertaken in January and February 2008. There were concerns that the festivals employ young casual workers and we were ensuring that they were paid appropriately. We have also done an audit—

Senator BILYK—Sorry to interrupt you there, but what was the outcome of that investigation?

Mr LOIZIDES—Of the casual workers?

Senator BILYK—Yes.

Mr LOIZIDES—I do not have that information here in front of me but I can take it on notice.

Senator BILYK—Can you take that on notice and get back to us?

Mr LOIZIDES—Most definitely. We have also done an audit of security companies that are contracted to perform those services at five upcoming festivals throughout Tasmania over the next year.

Senator BILYK—Do you know what festivals they are?

Mr LOIZIDES—No. Again, I do not have all of that detail here in front of me but I can take that on notice as well. But there are upcoming events.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response:

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) is committed to creating fairer workplaces across Australia and has undertaken significant work in the Tasmanian area to educate workforce participants about their rights and obligations and to ensure that those rights and obligations are protected and enforced.

In the 2008-2009 financial year, the FWO recovered \$1.05 million for 598 Tasmanian workers who had been underpaid in the course of their employment.

With offices in Hobart and Launceston, the FWO's 12 Tasmanian based staff finalised 498 complaints and recorded 227 breaches of workplace laws in Tasmania during the same period.

The FWO's Tasmanian offices have also been active in addressing the specific vulnerability of young workers and casual workers within Tasmania. For example, the FWO recovered almost \$5,000 for 45 mostly young casual employees who were working as part of the Taste of Tasmania Festival.

The FWO also conducted a number of additional targeted compliance campaigns at other Tasmanian festivals including the Falls Festival, Soundscape Festival, MS Fest and Festivale.