

Question 4

Senator O'NEILL: *On notice, I do have information that you have a work health and safety committee that tracks the number of hours that staff work by rank. I ask you to provide the committee with the details of those reports so that we can give some consideration to the nature of staffing. We've had reports about staff being there very, very late, doing many more hours than 7½ hours per day, and this is of serious concern in terms of quality and as a workplace issue as well.*

We track audit staff hours, including hours that are billable to entities we audit as well as administrative hours. Based on hours logged in our time management system for the year to 31 May 2019 (our firm's year end) average staff hours per week are:

- 35.1 billable hours per week
- 41.1 total hours, including training and all other administration hours.

These calculations are based on 46 working weeks, accounting for annual leave and public holidays over the course of the year.

The average hours quoted above include the peak audit periods that usually run from mid-January to the end of February, and mid-July to the end of August. During these periods our staff may be required to work longer hours. However, we have mechanisms in place including various types of flexible work arrangements to support our staff and manage these peak work periods.