



Senator Gavin Marshall
Chair
Senate Education and Employment References Committee
Australian Parliament House
Canberra

21 November 2016

By email

Re: Evidence to the Inquiry into the Government's workplace bargaining policy and approach to Commonwealth public sector bargaining

Dear Senator,

I have reviewed my evidence to the Committee given at the hearing conducted in Canberra on Friday 11 November 2016. I was giving evidence as a member of the CPSU Australian Taxation Office Bargaining Team.

On page 38 of the Proof Committee Hansard, I engage in an exchange with Senator Moore regarding part time arrangements that are proposed by the ATO.

A current provision allows for the ATO to review part time arrangements once a year for employees engaged on a part time basis. I indicated in my evidence that the ATO has made changes that propose that these part time arrangements could be reviewed frequently. On checking the proposed clause, I should have said that:

The ATO is proposing that these part time arrangements can be reviewed more regularly than once a year, but have proposed that they not be reviewed frequently.

I also made a statement that, 'I think the Fair Work Commission is concerned that they are going to be a bit frustrated about trying to define it in the future as well.' My words could be taken to imply that the Fair Work Commission has considered the matter and reached a determined view. To clarify my evidence, and to my knowledge, this is not the case. My intention was only to suggest that the proposed words from the ATO create significant ambiguity and may create future interpretation difficulties, including for the Fair Work Commission.

On this basis, I ask that the Committee set aside these comments recorded on Hansard in its deliberations and instead rely on the statements provided above, or take such other steps as may be appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on behalf of CPSU members in the ATO on this matter.

I ask that Committee publish this so that the correction appears on the public record.

Yours sincerely

✓ Erik Rasmussen
CPSU Tax Section Secretary