

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S DEPARTMENT QUESTIONS ON NOTICE – BUDGET ESTIMATES 2022-23

QoN No.	Program/Division or Agency	Senator	Title	Question	Written/Hansard	Page (Hansard)	Portfolio Question Number
1	Fair Work Commission	Larissa Waters	Update on stop sexual harassment orders	<p>Please update information provided in response to questions at the February estimates (EEC-AE22-047)</p> <p>How many applications have been made to the Fair Work Commission for stop sexual harassment orders since 28 February 2022?</p> <p>How many stop sexual harassment orders have been granted since 28 February 2022?</p>	Written		EEC-BE22-01
2	Attorney-General's Department	Anthony Sheldon	Estimation of hours dedicated to the case involving the AWU	<p>Senator SHELDON: Ms Jones, what would be the estimation of how many work hours were dedicated to the case involving the AWU?</p> <p>Ms Jones: From the department's perspective?</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: For the department and for ROC, potentially.</p> <p>Ms Jones: With ROC, I think that's a matter for the ROC. For the department: I'd need to take that on notice; I don't believe I have any information that could answer the question that you've asked specifically. I'll need to come back to you on that.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Is it possible to come back today?</p> <p>Ms Jones: In terms of disaggregating from the general policy work that the relevant team would be involved with, I think it could be quite challenging. I'll check with Mr Hehir as to whether that's possible or not.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I don't think it is possible, at least with part of the general work that the policy team has undertaken. We wouldn't have anything that would allocate time to particular pieces.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Mr Hehir, I appreciate that this is an estimation. Would it be over a hundred hours or—</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'm really not in a position to estimate it. Certainly—</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Is it over one hour?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: Senator, I'll just finish my answer. I wasn't the deputy secretary at the time, so I'd have to go back and see if there are any relevant records. It's not our usual practice to keep hourly records in terms of work. It would be pure speculation for me to try to come up with a figure.</p> <p>Senator SHELDON: Could you speculate that it's over one hour?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'm not meant to speculate, Senator.</p> <p>Senator Cash: We'll take it on notice and see what we can provide.</p>	Hansard	11	EEC-BE22-02
3	Attorney-General's Department	Malcolm Roberts	One Key payments paid to employees no longer in the mining industry and not members of CFMEU	<p>Ms Saunders: Under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee, we pay the five basic employment entitlements: redundancy pay, long-service leave, wages, annual leave and payment in lieu of notice. So our consideration of that doesn't actually take into account the extent to which they are funded by another organisation, except that, if there is a redundancy trust fund or whatever that will step in to pay a portion of the cost, that is not covered under the Fair Entitlements Guarantee program. I guess, in the sense that any entitlements that were payable under their governing instruments would have been paid under FEG, to the extent that they were eligible for it. For example, with One Key Workforce we paid 346 claimants a total of a \$6.8 million in FEG assistance. That covered a range of entitlements.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: What was the total figure?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: It was \$6.8 million.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: Recognising that covered off a number of different employee entitlements.</p> <p>Ms Saunders: I don't have the detail of what made up that in terms of the different entitlements that were covered. I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: If you could, please. I'd like to understand this issue because it involves some constituents in the Hunter Valley. My next question is: why did the Fair Entitlements Guarantee not pay One Key employees who were non-CFMEU members all entitlements owed under the black coal award, including shift penalties and overtime rates?</p> <p>Ms Saunders: Okay.</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: It's a complex issue, but it should be able to be boiled down once you have the data. I'm happy to take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator Cash: You're happy for us to take it?</p> <p>Senator ROBERTS: Yes. I'd like to get to the bottom of it.</p> <p>Senator Cash: Yes, understood.</p>	Hansard	16-17	EEC-BE22-03
4	Attorney-General's Department	Kristina Keneally	Paid parental leave	<p>Senator KENEALLY: Minister, with the greatest of respect, I say to you that mothers of stillborn babies go into labour and they give birth. They go through all the physical demands of giving birth. On top of that they are parents. They have to deal with funerals, autopsies, trauma and grief. I said to your adviser that I wasn't really fussed about the mechanism. What I am concerned about is that clearly there is a gap in the standards, because private sector companies are not uniformly providing paid parental leave for parents of stillborn babies. We heard horror stories where mothers were told by their managers, 'You don't have a baby, so why do you need leave?' Imagine going back to work 11 days after you've given birth to a dead baby. So my request to you is to help me understand what it is the government is going to do to fill this gap. Your adviser told me there were potentially constitutional issues with the bill</p>	Hansard	27	EEC-BE22-04

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				<p>that I introduced but that she would work with the department and get back to us about the next steps. That was on 5 August 2021. We have not had one response despite contacting your office on multiple occasions throughout the remainder of 2021. So I'm trying to understand: is the government going to do anything to fix this gap?</p> <p>Senator Cash: My understanding is it was obviously a very genuine discussion that was had. You come at this from a very personal perspective, without a doubt, and my office was very happy to work with you. As we said to you at the time, we are actively looking at your private member's bill. My understanding is the work remains ongoing. I might have to hand over to the department because my understanding is we are still waiting on advice from the department because there were some issues that had been raised. So I would need to get an update from the department. I don't know if we have the relevant official here. If not, I will get you an update. If we have the relevant official here, I will get that update provided to you now.</p> <p>Ms Wang: I will take it on notice. Some work has been done, but we will take that on notice and provide an update to you as soon as possible.</p> <p>Senator KENEALLY: It's very disappointing but thank you.</p>			
5	Attorney-General's Department	Matthew Canavan	Income tax exemptions relating to unregistered unions	<p>Senator CANAVAN: Thank you. What about if the bargaining ends up in the Fair Work Commission? I believe registered unions can apply to the Fair Work Commission without leave. Is that same right extended to unregistered unions?</p> <p>Mr Breen: Do you mean in the context of agreement-making?</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Breen: I'll have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: What about income tax exemptions? Do registered unions have an income tax exemption, and is that same right applied to unregistered unions?</p> <p>Mr Breen: I'm not aware of any income tax exemptions.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: Could you take that on notice, then?</p> <p>Mr Breen: Certainly, yes.</p>	Hansard	33	EEC-BE22-05
6	Attorney-General's Department	Matthew Canavan	Rights of registered unions to commence legal action	<p>Senator CANAVAN: What about the broader rights to commence legal action? Do registered unions have certain privileges with regard to launching legal action?</p> <p>Mr Breen: Certainly not outside of the Fair Work Act that I'm aware.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: That's what I meant. Obviously, they do have those privileges under the Fair Work Act?</p> <p>Mr Breen: They may have entitlements to appear, for example, in the Fair Work Commission and also in relation to some other matters under the Fair Work Act.</p> <p>Senator CANAVAN: I think you've already taken the Fair Work Commission on notice, but if perhaps you could take the broader question as well. Beyond just the Fair Work Commission appearances without leave, do registered unions have other privileges with regard to launching legal action?</p>	Hansard	33	EEC-BE22-06
7	Attorney-General's Department	Louise Pratt	Factors underlying changes in funding allocated for FEG	<p>Senator PRATT: Okay. How much is budgeted for FEG processing in 2022-23 through to 2025-26?</p> <p>Mr Manning: In 2022-23, the underlying departmental is \$61.897 million.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How much of that is for FEG processing?</p> <p>Mr Manning: That's the appropriation for all of it. That's the appropriate for the department to administer the FEG program. The amount expected to be paid out for FEG is in a special appropriation, which is a different figure.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So it's 61 million—</p> <p>Mr Manning: It's 61,897,000.</p> <p>Senator Cash: Mr Hehir has some information for you, Senator Pratt.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I might see whether someone can check this answer for me. But my understanding is that the 61.897 is actually for the industrial relations group as a whole, not specifically for—</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That's what I would have thought. I'm asking specifically about the FEG.</p> <p>Mr Manning: I'll take that on notice—that's my mistake.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So what's the baseline of expenditure in managing FEG currently?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'll have to take that on notice. I don't have that in front of me.</p>	Hansard	36-37	EEC-BE22-07
8	Australian Building and Construction Commission	Louise Pratt	Percentage of employers prosecuted	<p>Senator PRATT: What percentage of employers have you prosecuted?</p> <p>Mr Kelleher: I'd have to take that on notice, Senator.</p>	Hansard	5	EEC-BE22-08
9	Attorney-General's Department	Malarndirri McCarthy	Last meetings with representatives from MBA	<p>Senator McCARTHY: To the minister at the table, in your capacity in this area: when was the last time you or your office met with any representatives of the MBA?</p> <p>Senator Stoker: I can check my diary, but I can assure you it hasn't been in the last six months at least.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: What about the minister?</p>	Hansard	14	EEC-BE22-09

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				<p>Senator Stoker: I can't speak for her diary but I can take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator McCARTHY: Could you also tell us specifically: how often do you and/or the minister meet with the CEO, Denita Wawn; when was the last time you met with her; and what was the meeting about?</p> <p>Senator Stoker: I can take it on notice in relation to the minister. My answer would be the same for my diary, and that is to say I would have to check but it certainly hasn't been in the six months just gone at least.</p>			
10	Attorney-General's Department	Louise Pratt	Legal costs incurred by Minister Cash and the ROC	<p>Senator PRATT: With respect to the \$1.3 million in legal costs, can you provide the final tally of all legal costs incurred by Minister Cash and the ROC in relation to this case from when the matter commenced in August 2017 until now.</p> <p>Mr Hehir: The department will need to take on notice any of the costs for Minister Cash. That would not have been a matter for the ROC. We'll have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	17	EEC-BE22-10
11	Registered Organisations Commission	Eric Abetz	Reconstruction of documents relating to AWU v ROC case	<p>Senator ABETZ: Very, very, very serious indeed. Are you in a position to provide those six reconstructed documents? Take it on notice.</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: I'll take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, and see if legally, et cetera, it's appropriate or not.</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: Thank you, Senator.</p>	Hansard	22	EEC-BE22-11
12	Registered Organisations Commission	Eric Abetz	AWU admissions to failings and contraventions in investigations	<p>Senator ABETZ: I understand that the registered organisation wrote to the AWU in relation to its failings and it admitted contraventions as identified in the investigation. Once again—possibly take on notice—are you able to provide us a copy of that correspondence?</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: Our letters to the AWU?</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes.</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: Yes.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: And their admissions?</p> <p>Mr Bielecki: The letters, yes. The admissions I would have to take that on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Yes, of course. I understand that because there may be sensitivities around that.</p> <p>Mr Enright: In fact, I think we've recently provided the letters that I sent to the AWU.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: They have been?</p> <p>Mr Enright: We have been asked about them recently in a question on notice and they have not been tabled.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: Do those questions emanate from a particular senator or not? I think I have got a fair few on notice.</p> <p>Mr Enright: Yes, they were your questions on notice.</p> <p>Senator ABETZ: We will await those answers then.</p>	Hansard	22-23	EEC-BE22-12
13	Attorney-General's Department	Louise Pratt	Model Law	<p>Senator PRATT: I do understand that that is the process, but, in that context, which areas of model law—did the Commonwealth, for example, support changes to section 117, on right of entry, or not?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: Allow me to take that on notice. I can't remember the specifics of that one. I will need to go back and check.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What about industrial manslaughter?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I think the minister was clear at the time that that was not supported by the Commonwealth.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: What about insecure work being a psychosocial provision?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'd need to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	29	EEC-BE22-13
14	Safe Work Australia	Louise Pratt	State responses to Boland Review recommendations	<p>Senator PRATT: How many states have responded according to the time line?</p> <p>Ms Johnston: It's not just states; it's all of our members, including our social partners. At the moment, I think we're awaiting three members' responses, but I would have to take that on notice to be sure.</p>	Hansard	30	EEC-BE22-14
15	Safe Work Australia	Louise Pratt	National focus on dust disease	<p>Mr Hehir: As I was saying, the state based regulators are the people who go out and do the inspections. Ms Baxter may have information that has been provided to her; I'm not sure. But at the workplace level it is actually up to the work health and safety regulator within each jurisdiction. I would also point you to the fact that we now have agreed positions on the National Dust Disease Taskforce, which were released just recently on 4 April. The responses were endorsed by all jurisdictions. There is certainly a significant amount of work. That consultation process, the work of Safe Work Australia and the work that individual jurisdictions are doing shows that there is a national focus on dust diseases. I'm not sure whether Ms Baxter has that information from the regulators, but I'm just recognising it's the role of the regulators to go out and do the inspections in workplaces.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Ms Baxter, what does that picture look like as far as you are aware?</p> <p>Ms Baxter: I would need to take that on notice as I'm not certain that we have all of the information from all jurisdictions that could possibly assist you. So I will take that on notice and we will provide that information.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay.</p>	Hansard	31	EEC-BE22-15

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16	Comcare	Louise Pratt	Seacare Scheme	<p>Senator PRATT: Who is uninsured, and what are the circumstances that workers are in currently if and when there's a need for workers compensation for seafarers which relies on the Seacare scheme?</p> <p>Ms Weston: It's a default scheme for situations where an employer can't be found for a variety the reasons. It's not like there's a set of employees covered. Coverage is able to be obtained through state schemes, and some employers have asked to be exempt from the Seacare scheme and have moved to the state scheme, so that has happened. There was one thing you said at the beginning, Senator, that I missed out on responding to you on. Oh, the other thing is that the fund does have reserves, and of course we have an actuarial assessment of the liability. It's not like there isn't funding to support the scheme at this point.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: How long have we got, do we think?</p> <p>Ms Weston: I might ask my colleagues. I have my colleagues here who've all come to Canberra today, just to let you know, committee. Some of them have been on the screen before, but they've come today, so it's very good.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: That's fine.</p> <p>Ms Weston: Mr Duke gets a chance to answer in person.</p> <p>Mr Duke: Just to clarify on the insurance issue, the fund is required to take out a reinsurance policy for over a million. The fund currently sits at over a million dollars at the moment. In terms of the fund itself, should a claim arise it has sufficient resources to meet that claim. I'd probably need to take on notice how long. There are numerous steps that need to be met for a claim to be made against the fund, and what I'd need to highlight is that, depending on what the type of claim is—it could be a low-cost claim, but if it's a more expensive claim. The point is probably that the payments on claims are iterative, so they're not lump sum; they're as you go kind of payments. Certainly, I would suggest a number of years in terms of the fund.</p>	Hansard	35	EEC-BE22-16
17	Comcare	Louise Pratt	Claims against Seacare fund	<p>Senator PRATT: Has the insurance for the workers that no longer have access to Seacare all been diverted to other insurers? How much of it still rests with the contingency fund?</p> <p>Mr Duke: Just to clarify, there are employers who have moved out of the Seacare scheme into those state jurisdictions and they would have their insurance within those state jurisdictions. Again, the fund is a default fund. Certain events have to occur for a claim to be able to be made against that fund. That includes things like: does the employer no longer exist? Has it been wound up? There are a couple of tests, which I can provide on notice—in relation to what those are. It's at that point that a claim can be made against the fund. Then it would go through the process of whether it would be accepted or not under the act.</p>	Hansard	37	EEC-BE22-17
18	Comcare	Louise Pratt	Drawdown on funds of private insurers or from Seacare Fund	<p>Senator PRATT: I understand about the Seacare Authority. But if Seacare can no longer get insurance to do its work in general, what is the ongoing status of that authority?</p> <p>Ms Weston: Every time a ship that's in our group berths, they pay an amount of money as a berth fee. That's what is used to top up the fund. Hopefully, we don't have any claims, and you'll get to a point where the actuaries are happy with the bundle of money in there, which is obviously reviewed very regularly. If some big claim came—we don't expect that at the moment—and we were going to exhaust the fund, we'd need to go to the department to work out where that money would come from the government. But it will be to meet the entitlements that the person is entitled to.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: In the past has there been a drawdown on the funds of private insurers, or has it all come from the fund itself?</p> <p>Mr Duke: I'd have to take that on notice. The way it's set up, as I said, is that the act seeks that the fund has a reinsurance policy for amounts claimed over \$1 million. That is, in essence, a retention fee, so the fund would pay up to the million and then the reinsurance policy would kick in and pay for any amounts that were over that amount, in essence. It would draw down on the fund up to a point and then it would go to the reinsurance policy.</p>	Hansard	38	EEC-BE22-18
19	Fair Work Commission	Louise Pratt	Future of online hearings discussion paper	<p>Senator PRATT: Have the details of that feedback already been made public in that discussion paper?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I'm not too sure if the feedback has been published yet. I'd have to take that on notice.</p>	Hansard	48	EEC-BE22-19
20	Fair Work Commission	Louise Pratt	Cooperative Workplaces program	<p>Mr Furlong: At 28 February 2022—so this year—there'd been 109 cooperative workplace applications. Sixteen of those are active at the moment. Parties—and this obviously isn't all the parties that have participated in the Cooperative Workplaces program, formerly called New Approaches—are: ASU, AEU, AMWU, CPSU, IEU, MUA, NTEU, Alcoa, the Catholic Education Office in Queensland, Macquarie University, MMA Offshore Vessel Operations, News Corp and a number of others.</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Thank you. That is very helpful. Is there any outsourcing of that training? Has the program been evaluated? Has it been successful?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: It was externally evaluated last year. I'll have to take this on notice. I can't confirm that that evaluation has been completed. I've certainly seen a draft report, but I'm not sure if there's been a final report. We have undertaken an external evaluation of it. I will have to take on notice whether or not it has been completed.</p>	Hansard	50	EEC-BE22-20

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21	Fair Work Commission	Louise Pratt	Expert panel review of superannuation funds	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you advise on the status, please, of the expert panel members? I understand the legislation provides for six members, three of whom currently serve and are working on the important annual wage review. What is the status of the other two panels to do with superannuation? Do they operate; and what is their status?</p> <p>Mr Furlong: I might have to take that question on notice, unless Ms Leggett could provide some further information on it. I'm not aware of the expert panel for review of superannuation funds. I will need to take it on notice.</p>	Hansard	51	EEC-BE22-21
22	Attorney-General's Department	Louise Pratt	Advice to FWC regarding appointments or departures of commissioners	<p>Senator PRATT: Mr Hehir, what advice in recent days has the department given to the Fair Work Commission in relation to appointments or the departure of commissioners?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'd need to take that on notice. I haven't personally contacted Mr Furlong, so I'd need to check with my staff.</p>	Hansard	52	EEC-BE22-22
23	Attorney-General's Department	Louise Pratt	Additional appointments to FWC	<p>Senator PRATT: I wanted to know—or on notice—what happened in December when they announced the additional appointments. Was it the minister's office, or the department, that made that call at the time?</p> <p>Mr Hehir: I'd need to take that on notice. I can't recall.</p>	Hansard	52	EEC-BE22-23
24	Fair Work Ombudsman	Louise Pratt	Employer withholding paid parental leave	<p>Senator PRATT: Ms Parker, good afternoon. I would like to refer to a media article which appeared on the ABC online on 2 April. It was regarding a matter that your office, the Fair Work Ombudsman, investigated and prosecuted. It relates to the fertility clinic the Pagoda Tree. I understand the situation here is that there was a Chinese medicine practitioner at the Pagoda Tree clinic in Albert Park who took parental leave to have her first child in 2018. That's a case you're familiar with?</p> <p>...</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Did you work out whether the employer was withholding part of each payment?</p> <p>Ms Volzke: I'd probably have to take on notice the specific details of that and get back to you. I haven't got that to hand, unless Ms Dennis, who's our Executive Director Legal Compliance and Enforcement, is able to answer that question. She should be on video.</p>	Hansard	54	EEC-BE22-24
25	Fair Work Ombudsman	Louise Pratt	Referrals regarding paid parental leave being withheld	<p>Senator PRATT: Can you please advise of the circumstances of this matter in terms of how it came to your attention?</p> <p>Ms Volzke: I understand that it was a referral that came from the Department of Human Services.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Is that the first and only such referral that you've had on payments like this being withheld?</p> <p>Ms Volzke: Can we take that on notice?</p>	Hansard	54	EEC-BE22-25
26	Fair Work Ombudsman	Louise Pratt	Referrals from DHS regarding failure to pay parental leave	<p>Senator PRATT: To round off on the matters that we were dealing with before in relation to wage theft: do we know if the employee of the Pagoda Tree was casual or full time? That's a separate question to your status under paid parental leave, as I understand it.</p> <p>Ms Volzke: I think we identified contraventions of annual leave provision, so I think that would mean she was ongoing.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: So she would've been ongoing.</p> <p>Ms Volzke: Ms Dennis is on the line as well.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Ms Dennis, what do you know about this case? I know you've been listening in to questions, so you can dive into the bits that have been asked that are relevant to your knowledge.</p> <p>Ms Dennis: I can assist by letting you know that it's an uncommon request for assistance that the Fair Work Ombudsman receives in terms of failure to pay parental leave. We receive referrals from DHS. At the moment I'm aware of three that have come through—although I can take it on notice as to how many questions, if that would assist—two of which have resulted in litigation.</p>	Hansard	55	EEC-BE22-26
27	Fair Work Ombudsman	Louise Pratt	Paid parental leave complaints	<p>Senator PRATT: In terms of paid parental leave, are there a range of other complaints in relation to people serving the waiting periods to get access to employer funded paid parental leave? What does the general landscape look like when it comes to paid parental leave and pregnancy related entitlements or pregnancy discrimination? Are there issues there that you're able to highlight for us?</p> <p>Ms Parker: I think the Department of Human Services would get those sorts of complaints, but I can certainly take it on notice.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: I'm not necessarily talking about the government funded schemes anymore. I'm just talking about the provisions that you might have through universities or other big employers, where they now have those provisions.</p> <p>Ms Parker: I think I'd need to take it on notice. I'm very happy to find out what we have in the system around requests for assistance or complaints or inquiries. That's what you're seeking to see—whether this is a broader issue?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: It doesn't necessarily involve a breach of the National Employment Standards and employment rights. I understand it would only come across your desk if it did, but it has certainly been put to me by people seeking to have children that they forgo moving employers or career progression because they have to have worked for a certain length of time before they get an entitlement to their paid parental leave, and that has other implications in</p>	Hansard	56	EEC-BE22-27

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				<p>terms of delaying trying to get pregnant or workplace advancement. I understand that they're not policy issues you can fix, because you're only looking at the breaches, but I'm just trying to unpack the interplay between the two.</p> <p>Ms Volzke: It was in the context of the disability royal commission that Ms Parker gave evidence before. We did have a look at our data at the time. The number of requests that we get for assistance in relation to discrimination complaints generally is quite low, and, across all of the protected attributes, a lot of it is because of wanting to maintain the relationship with the employer, so they're often referred off to conciliation to see if there can be some resolution. I'm not aware of—but I'm very happy to take it on notice—any recent allegations relating to pregnancy discrimination et cetera. We certainly have had investigations in relation to pregnancy discrimination in the past, but not recently that I'm aware of.</p> <p>Ms Parker: Yes. I think you're asking about the broader policy question: is the intention of the policy actually working or is it creating other, unintended consequences? It would probably be a conversation to have with the department, because they do a fair bit of analysis around how the policy is working in practice. It's not a matter for us so much, but it is an interesting question.</p>			
28	Fair Work Ombudsman	Louise Pratt	Value of payment made to migrant workers	<p>Senator PRATT: You might need to take this on notice: what's the value of payments that have been made back to those workers, and has it reached them all?</p> <p>Mr Ronson: I'd have to take that on notice, because there would be several matters of significance in the last decade, at least, that we could point to.</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Okay. If you could take on notice the details of those matters—the countries that they've come from and whether all of the money that is owed to the workers has made it back into their pockets—that would be terrific.</p> <p>Mr Ronson: To clarify the question: it would be those matters where workers were being paid in accordance with their home nations' payment structure, whereas they should have been paid under the Fair Work Act?</p> <p>Senator PRATT: Correct. Thank you. The profile of that would be terrific.</p>	Hansard	61	EEC-BE22-28