



Senator Mark Bishop
Chair
Senate Economics Legislation Committee
Room SG.64
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Senator Bishop,

I am writing to provide the Senate Economics Legislation Committee with additional information to supplement an answer I provided at the ATO's recent appearance at the Supplementary Budget Estimates hearing on 20 October 2011. At this hearing we were questioned about our enterprise agreement negotiations. More specifically, Senator Cormann asked whether we had reached agreement following the bargaining period to which I responded that we have the support of one of our unions, the Australian Services Union (ASU).

Following the hearing, there have been some media articles suggesting that my statement was misleading. By way of clarification, I would like to provide the following additional material to supplement my evidence to the Committee concerning union support for the ATO's draft enterprise agreement.

Negotiations regarding the enterprise agreement commenced in February 2011 and concluded on 18 October 2011. For the entire duration of the negotiations, ASU members were represented by an ASU bargaining team headed by an ASU official, Mr Jeff Lavidos, Branch Secretary (Tax Office Branch).

At the time I responded to Senator Cormann's question, Mr Lavidos had indicated his support for the proposed agreement. ASU (Tax Office Branch) member support has subsequently been confirmed by a vote of the union's members. It has also been confirmed with the National Secretary of the ASU, Mr David Smith that the Branch Secretary, Mr Lavidos, is empowered to represent the union in this matter. My comments were made on that understanding.

I hope this sufficiently clarifies this issue, and I look forward to a continued positive working relationship with the Committee.

Yours sincerely

Jennie Granger
Second Commissioner of Taxation

4 November 2011