

SENATE

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT LEGISLATION COMMITTEE

Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment (Ensuring Integrity) Bill 2019

(Public)

FRIDAY, 20 SEPTEMBER 2019

MELBOURNE

Menzies Research Centre – Questions On Notice

Senator PATRICK: How many have there been since the ABCC legislation came into place?

Mr Mathias: I don't have that on me.

RESPONSE

The ABCC since being re-established on 2 December 2016 has brought 21 cases against the CFMMEU for conduct that occurred after 1 January 2017. In addition the ABCC has brought 62 cases against the CFMMEU for conduct that occurred before 1 January 2017.

Senator SHELDON: Are you aware of how many occupational health and safety breaches occur with people who donate to your organisation?

Mr Mathias: What relevance does that have to this bill?

Senator SHELDON: It has a great deal of relevance. I'd like you to answer the question. If you don't wish to answer the question or if you are avoiding answering the question, I understand that.

Mr Mathias: I'll take the question on notice.

Senator PRATT: It's a question of corporate equivalence.

Mr Mathias: I'll take that on notice.

RESPONSE

With respect to the matters contained in the bill before the committee, there is no relevance to the questions asked.

However, to the best of my knowledge, we are not aware of any of the breaches referred to made by our donors.

Senator LAMBIE: When was the last time the Menzies Research Centre opposed the passage of a bill introduced by the coalition government?

Mr Mathias: I'll take that on notice, but I've been with the centre for two years and we haven't in that time. I'll check the records for you.

RESPONSE

Decisions over the management of the passage of bills through the parliament are a matter for the parliamentary team.

The function of the Menzies Research Centre is to advise politicians of all political persuasions on the best public policy settings in the national interest.