

Answer to question on notice by the Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Asked at a public hearing on 28 September 2017 by Senator Lines; received 9 October 2017.

Question:

Senator KETTER: Can I ask of the chamber: have you been involved in consultation?

Ms Matheson: We were certainly involved in the COIL process ahead of the bill being tabled in parliament. But, beyond that, no broader consultation process.

Senator KETTER: When was your consultation? When did that occur?

Ms Matheson: I'd have to take that on notice.

Mr Barklamb: Senator, are you familiar with the COIL process?

Senator KETTER: Which one?

Mr Barklamb: The National Workplace Relations Consultative Council is a creature of statute of the parliament. It formally gives effect to Australia's obligations under an ILO convention to talk to unions and employers when you pass industrial legislation. One of its subcommittees means that our organisation, along with Amanda's organisation and along with the ACTU and a number of its affiliates, are sat around a table confidentially with a draft of the legislation and we're given an opportunity to provide immediate comments, not necessarily on policy but on mechanics and practicality, omissions and the like. That is the main point at which we see legislation, through a formal, closed-door process under statute.

Senator KETTER: Okay.

Mr Barklamb: As to the date of that, I don't know. We can take that on notice.

Answer:

Page 45, I [Ms Matheson] was asked when the COIL process occurred. The COIL meeting on the for the Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment (Ensuring Integrity) Bill 2017 was held on 14 August 2017. The same question was taken on notice by Mr Barklamb on the next page.