

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001483

Senator Rice asked on 02 March 2017 on proof Hansard page 39

Question

FWO - Meeting with Growcom and the Fair Work Ombudsman office

Senator RICE: Did they meet with anyone from your office—anyone associated with the grants program?

Ms James: I am not sure about that. I will take it on notice.

Senator RICE: Okay. If there were such meetings, were there any similar meetings held with the Queensland Working Women's centre?

Ms James: I will take that on notice as well, Senator.

Answer

Between May and September 2016, the Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) regularly updated the Queensland Working Women's Centre (and other Community Based Employment Advice Services Program funding recipients) on the progress of the Community Engagement Grants Program (CEG Program). No meetings or conversations about the grants process were held with Growcom during this period.

During the grants application period, 23 September 2016 to 4 November 2016, the FWO did not meet with the Queensland Working Women's Centre or Growcom. Contact with funding applicants and potential funding applicants during this time was limited to responding to queries relating to the application process.

Shortly before the grants selection panel submitted its recommendation, the panel contacted some applicants it was considering, including Growcom, about the level of funding available. This was done pursuant to clause 70 of the CEG Program Guidelines.

On 12 December 2016, Growcom was offered funding under the CEG Program and FWO contacted the Queensland Working Women's Centre to advise of the outcome of their application.