

## **Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment**

### **QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017**

**Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001525**

**Senator Marshall provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **FWO - Mediation of underpayment claims**

The annual report indicates that in 2016-2016, the FWO finalised 29,900 instances of alleged non-compliance.

How many instances were reported to the FWO?

How many of them related to underpayment of wages, how many to other breaches of labour standards?

In 2015-16, the Mediation team finalised 4500 workplace disputes -

How many of these were complaints re underpayment of wages? What proportion of complaints of underpayment were resolved?

What is the proportion of disputes which do not get settled because the employer does not agree to participate in mediation?

#### **Answer**

In 2015-16, the FWO received 29,173 requests for assistance and finalised 29,900.

Of the 29,900 finalised requests for assistance, the top four allegations were:

- Wages – Underpayment of Hourly Rate
- Wages – Not Paid for Time Worked
- Leave – Annual Leave
- Payment in Lieu of Notice

Of the 4500 requests for assistance finalised by the mediation team in 2015-16, 2486 involved allegations of underpayment of wages. The FWO resolved 70% of these matters at or before mediation. 3% of matters involving alleged underpayment of wages were not resolved through mediation.

All compliance and enforcement activities, including activities undertaken by the Mediation team, are conducted in accordance with the FWO's Compliance and Enforcement Policy available at [www.fairwork.gov.au](http://www.fairwork.gov.au).