

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Outcome 2 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001539

Senator Marshall provided in writing.

Question

Registered Organisations Commission

Has the Registered Organisations Bill which passed the parliament last year been proclaimed yet?

If not, why not?

Has a Commissioner been appointed?

Has the job been advertised, if so how long was the job advertised for?

How long was it advertised for before a Commissioner was appointed?

What if any steps have been taken to establish the Commission?

Have any staff been recruited, if not, what processes have been put in place for staff recruitment?

Answer

The Governor General proclaimed that Schedules One and Two of the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Amendment Act 2016* commenced on 1 and 2 May 2017 respectively.

Mr Mark Bielecki has been appointed as the Registered Organisations Commissioner following a merit-based selection process. Mr Bielecki commenced on 1 May 2017.

The Registered Organisations Commissioner role was advertised from 22 December 2016 to 14 January 2017.

The Department of Employment co-ordinated the establishment of the Registered Organisations Commission. A Steering Committee comprising officers of the Department, the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman and the Fair Work Commission met weekly from 6 December 2016 to 2 May 2017 to oversee and coordinate the establishment of the Commission.

No staff have been recruited to the Registered Organisations Commission at this stage. Certain staff currently working in the Fair Work Commission's Regulatory Compliance Branch (and two vacant positions) transferred to the Office of the Fair Work Ombudsman through a Machinery of Government change. The Fair Work Ombudsman will make these staff available to the Registered Organisations Commissioner, and they will be subject to the direction of the Registered Organisations Commissioner.