

## Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

### QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

**Agency - Fair Work Commission**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001949**

**Senator Abetz asked on 30 March 2017 on proof Hansard page 12**

#### **Question**

#### **FWC - Comments on Proceedings in the Federal Court**

Senator ABETZ: But this is dealing with one of the deputy presidents of the Fair Work Commission who has told you that there was some adverse judicial comments made—

Justice Ross: No, she said it would be an issue in the proceedings.

Senator ABETZ: In which proceedings?

Justice Ross: In the proceedings in the Federal Court. She said that it would be raised in the proceedings.

Senator ABETZ: So she has not told you about the actual commentary by your fellow Judge of the Federal Court in relation to these matters? She has not reported that to you?

Justice Ross: Not that I can recall.

Senator ABETZ: And nobody has reported those comments of, I think, Justice Jessup—is that correct, Ms Carruthers?

Ms Carruthers: I would have to take that on notice. It is a matter that Mr Enright is handling.

#### **Answer**

The delegate of the General Manager, Mr Chris Enright, is currently undertaking preliminary, informal inquiries concerning whether former officers of the Tasmanian Branch of the Electrical, Energy and Services Division of the Communications, Electrical, Electronic, Energy, Information, Postal, Plumbing and Allied Services Union of Australia, including Ms Nicole Wells, complied with their statutory obligations under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.

Prior to the Committee hearing on 30 March 2017, Mr Enright did not provide either a verbal or written report to Justice Ross concerning the allegations or the nature or conduct of his inquiries.