

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

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

#### **Outcome 1 - Employment**

**Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001950**

**Senator Marshall asked on 30 March 2017 on proof Hansard page 27**

#### **Question**

##### **Penalties for jobactive Provider**

Senator MARSHALL: Were there any penalties applied in this instance?

Ms Milliken: Could I clarify, penalties in respect of—

Senator MARSHALL: Any penalties, I suppose, the penalties to the provider or anything.

Mr Hehir: We would probably just need to clarify that and take it on notice. I am not sure if the supervisor being referred to was an employee of the host with which we have no relationship, whether he was an employee of the provider or an employee of Work for the Dole coordinator who did the assessment. I just need to check and see where the actual claim is against a particular individual and who employs them.

Senator MARSHALL: Have you penalised anyone as a department? Is this provider still providing these services but elsewhere?

Mr Hehir: This provider is a provider that has a reasonable level of business. They have been providing employment services for many years. They continue to provide services in a number of locations around Australia.

Senator MARSHALL: Check the signage first though; make sure it is not taken down.

Mr Hehir: If indeed it was an employee of the provider then I will see what action has been taken. It is entirely possible, if the supervisor was an employee of the host, which is frequently the case, we would have had no relationship with them.

#### **Answer**

There were no penalties applied to the jobactive provider or Work for the Dole Coordinator in relation to the asbestos found at the Work for the Dole site in Adelaide.

The Work for the Dole Coordinator and the jobactive provider complied with risk assessment requirements for the program prior to commencement of the activity and following the discovery of the asbestos. The department understands that the asbestos register at the site indicated that, while there had previously been asbestos found inside the house located at the Work for the Dole site in Adelaide, this was removed in 2015 at the request of the host organisation. The Work for the Dole participants at the activity were not undertaking tasks inside the house when the asbestos was discovered. The non-friable asbestos discovered under the ground outside was not listed on the asbestos register.

In relation to the allegation that a sticker warning asbestos may be present at the site was removed by the supervisor of the Work for the Dole activity, the department has been advised that while such a sticker is believed to have been displayed at the commencement of the activity, it was no longer on display when the asbestos was found on the site. The department understands that the host organisation is unable to confirm who removed this sticker or when it was removed.

The supervisor for the activity was contracted by the host organisation specifically for the Work for the Dole activity. As the department does not have a contractual relationship with the host organisation no penalties could be applied to the host organisation if the supervisor was determined to be responsible for the removal of the sticker.