

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2016 - 2017

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EMSQ17-001955

Senator Cameron asked on 30 March 2017 on proof Hansard page 14

Question

FWC - Resignations

Senator CAMERON: You indicate in clause 7 that you foreshadowed in correspondence to the minister in December 2015 that there would be further statutory retirements. Could you table that correspondence?

Justice Ross: It is not my practice to table correspondence. The purpose in referring to that issue is to indicate that it was not unexpected. My reluctance to table the correspondence is that it also deals with other issues which are not related to this issue. The point I wanted to make there was simply that these resignations were anticipated.

Senator CAMERON: Could you table redacted correspondence?

Senator Cash: Senator Cameron, perhaps President Ross and I can take it on notice and consider whether or not it is appropriate, given the statements that President Ross has just made. We will take it on notice and have a look at it for you.

Senator CAMERON: It is for redacted correspondence.

Senator Cash: Yes, for redacted correspondence.

Senator CAMERON: I am not interested in anything else.

Senator Cash: Understood. President Ross can take it on notice and have a better look at it so that we do not compromise President Ross in any way.

Answer

Paragraph [7] of the written statement about early departures by Presidential Members that Justice Ross tabled in the Estimates hearing on 30 March 2017 referred to correspondence from Justice Ross to the Minister for Employment dated 21 December 2015 and 10 February 2017.

At the Estimates hearing on 30 March 2017, Justice Ross agreed to take on notice tabling redacted copies of that correspondence. Justice Ross proposes to adhere to the usual practice of not tabling copies of correspondence with the Minister for Employment.