

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EM0127_15

Senator Ludwig provided in writing.

Question

FWC - Conditions of Government Contracts and Agreements

Since 7 September 2013;

1. Do any contracts managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy? If so, please name each contract. When was it formed or created?
2. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
3. Do any agreements managed by the Department/Agency contain any limitations on restrictions on advocacy or criticisms of Government policy? If so, please name each agreement. When was it formed or created?
4. What are the specific clauses and/or sections which state this, or in effect, create a limitation or restriction?
5. For each of the contracts and agreements, are there any particular reason, such as genuine commercial in confidence information, for this restriction?
6. Have any changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society been made? If so, which groups? What was the change?
7. Has any consultation occurred between the Department/Agency and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes? If so, what consultation process was used? Was it public? If not, why not? Are public submissions available on a website?
8. If no consultation has occurred, why not?

Answer

- 1 -5. No contracts or agreements managed by the Fair Work Commission contain any limitations or restrictions on advocacy or criticising Government policy since 7 September 2013.
6. There have been no changes to financial or resource support to services which advocate on behalf of groups or individuals in Australian society since 7 September 2013.
- 7 - 8. Therefore, no consultation has occurred between the Commission and any individuals and/or community groups about these changes.