

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

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

#### **Agency - Fair Work Building & Construction**

**Department of Employment Question No. EM0581\_15**

**Senator Cameron provided in writing.**

#### **Question**

##### **FWBC - Press release published on FWBC website on 12 March 2014**

At the Additional Budget Estimates hearing of the Education and Employment Committee on 27th February 2014 (Proof Committee Hansard p.60), the following exchange occurred: Mr Hadgkiss: Yes, and whatever the agency says is cleared by myself prior to going out. Senator TILLEM: So, you clear all communications between the organisation and the media? Mr Hadgkiss: Correct. Does the Director stand by his evidence to the Additional Budget Estimates hearing on 27th February 2014? Did the Director authorise a media release published on the FWBC website on 12th March 2014 headed, "Chair appalled by attack on Hadgkiss"? If the Director did not authorise it, who did? Why did the Director feel it necessary to authorise and publish that media release on the FWBC website? The media release indicates that Mr. Lloyd was upset by the questioning of the Director during course of the hearing. Why did the Director or whoever authorised the media release, if it wasn't the Director, think that the nation's media, and presumably, the Australian public needed to know that Mr. Lloyd was upset? What possible public interest could there be in Mr. Lloyd's upset? Please explain why the Director believes that the authorisation and publication of the media release on the FWBC website is not inconsistent with the duties of agency heads and statutory office holders' duties under the APS Code of Conduct, APS Values set out in s.10 of the Public Service Act 1999 and the obligation of the Agency to comply with the Department of Finance and Deregulation Guidelines for Ministerial and Agency Websites?

#### **Answer**

The Director authorised the media release to be posted on the FWBC website. The Chair, Mr Lloyd believed the public may be interested to know how a statutory office holder was treated.