

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Fair Work Building & Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EM0582_15

Senator Cameron provided in writing.

Question

FWBC - Press report, "Union's cheap as chips menu breaches rules, say builders"; Australian Financial Review, 23rd April 2014

According to the report, the Master Builders' Association of Western Australia complained to FWBC that a union-run canteen at the Midland Public Hospital site in Perth breaches adverse action provisions of the Fair Work Act because the canteen offers meals to union members at discounted prices while non-union members have to pay full price for meals such as a "weekend big breakfast". According to the report, FWBC "is investigating whether the benefit for union members breaches the Fair Work Act." Has FWBC investigated this matter? If so, does FWBC intend to launch any prosecution for any breach of the Fair Work Act in relation to the provision of discount meals to union members? And if so, how much time has the investigation taken and how much has it cost?"

Answer

FWBC initiated an investigation into this matter on 9 April 2014. The investigation is current. Litigation of possible breaches of the Fair Work Act will be considered on the evidence when the investigation has been completed.

FWBC does not cost individual investigations.