

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

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

Agency - Fair Work Building & Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EM0822_15

Senator Cameron asked on 2 June 2014 on proof Hansard page 39

Question

FWBC - non-ongoing engagement

Senator CAMERON: When you advised estimates last time, I must say I was left with the impression that the person you were talking to would be employed on an individual contractual basis with the department because you were not sure how much time was going to be involved and it would not be a full-time job. Is my memory wrong on that? Mr Hadgkiss: I think that is correct. Senator CAMERON: In relation to some of the documents that you have tabled on this engagement, the reason for the employment opportunity in the engagement contract was a temporary increase in workload. Correct? Mr Hadgkiss: Yes. Senator CAMERON: That employee was not employed as a contractor doing contractual work but as a non-ongoing engagement in the Public Service. Is that correct? Mr Hadgkiss: Correct. Senator CAMERON: When did that position change? Mr Hadgkiss: It never has changed. Senator CAMERON: You told estimates last time that it would be a contractual basis. Mr Hadgkiss: As I understand it, she has a short-term contract of a non-ongoing basis. Senator CAMERON: But you do agree with me that that is not what you advised last time? Mr Hadgkiss: No. I would agree. It is a play on words, I am sorry. I can neither agree nor disagree. I did not give the matter much moment, I must confess. Senator CAMERON: Well, can you take on notice, then, to have a look at your response on Hansard to last estimates and come back to me and indicate when it changed, if I am correct in this assessment? Mr Hadgkiss: It never changed. It never changed. Senator CAMERON: Just let me finish. The position changed from what I understood you were saying, which was a contractor doing work on an ad hoc basis to do a certain task, to a non-ongoing employee in the Public Service.

Answer

The person has always been employed on a non-ongoing basis. The instrument that gives effect to this engagement is referred to in the agency as a non-ongoing 'contract'.