

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMICS QUESTION**  
**(Supplementary Budget Estimates 20 October – 21 October)**

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Question: SBT 166

Topic: List of cases before the OECD National Contact Point

Senator Ludlam asked:

**Senator LUDLAM**—Which one? Just name names as you go, if you are at liberty to do so. Or, if you like, if there is a list, rather than taking up the committee's time, do you want to just table a list?

**Mr Di Giorgio**—I can table a list if you like, Senator.

**Senator LUDLAM**—I would appreciate that. What I am mainly interested in is which cases are still alive. Is that the list that you were reading to me? Are they still pending?

**Mr Di Giorgio**—As I understand it all of these cases have been resolved. But I will have to check that and, as I said earlier, there are two fresh cases that have been received.

**Senator LUDLAM**—Thank you. If we can get that list from you, that will give us the semi-recent work history of the NCP. What can you tell us about the two cases that are live at the moment?

**Mr Di Giorgio**—I do not believe I am in a position to say anything about them, because they are not yet public.

**Senator LUDLAM**—Some of it is in the newspapers at the moment.

**Mr Di Giorgio**—Having said that, I do not have the details with me. So, again, I can provide some basic information about those to the extent that they are public.

**Senator LUDLAM**—Okay. Is it a concern to you that it is in the press that the trade union movement has brought one case to the NCP only in the last couple of weeks? Presumably it is not a secret to say that you have brought a matter to the NCP—or is it a bit like the ABCC, where you cannot tell anybody in case you disappear after dark if you have been contacted by it?

**Mr Di Giorgio**—I had not thought of that, but I guess I am respecting the privacy of the people involved.

**Answer:**

The Australian National Contact Point publishes a statement upon completion of each specific instance. These can be found at [www.ausncp.gov.au](http://www.ausncp.gov.au).

The general approach to specific instances is that confidentiality is maintained during the process and then the outcome is made transparent at the end of the process. Some complainants do publicise their specific instance complaint. However the effectiveness of any consideration of issues regarding any complaint will depend on the establishment of trust and goodwill between the parties, and maintaining confidentiality is an important part of this cooperative process.

I am not able to comment in detail on matters currently before the Australian National Contact Point because of the confidentiality required to deal with such matters. However, I can confirm that the Australian National Contact Point has recently received two cases, although one of these is being handled by the UK National Contact Point in line with the guidance provided by the OECD.