

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0135_14

Senator Cameron asked on 27 February 2014 , Hansard page 20

Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EM0010_14.

Question

FWO - Number of compliance audits

Senator CAMERON: You say 'in the last four years'. You have given me some figures on financial years, and you go back three financial years. The highpoint there was 2011-12, with 6,574 audits. Are you indicating there was a higher point?
Mr Ronson: Yes, I will take that on notice. Senator CAMERON: If there was, why didn't you provide that in the answer to my question? Why did you not go to that high point? Mr Ronson: I am not sure. We are happy to take that on notice. There would have been no attempt to 'conceal', if you like. Senator CAMERON: If you take 2011-12 to 2013-14, the number of audits has dropped by 25 per cent, given the answer you gave me on notice, but it could be even higher? Mr Ronson: Yes, that is my memory. As I say, I am happy to take it on notice. What I am trying to frame my response in is that the number may continue to lower in the next year or two but that would not in any way, shape or form a reflection that we do not take our auditing work seriously. Ms James: Senator, could I just clarify which question on notice you are referring to? Senator CAMERON: EM0010_14. Ms James: I have that in front of me. Your question did go to our audits in the past financial years, but it did not specify how far back to go. So we have gone back as far as— Senator CAMERON: Ms James, do not dig a hole in this. Can you get those details for me, because I am just wondering if there was a high point why you did not go to that high point. That is all. I am not making a big issue of it. You only need to get me the figures, if you do not mind. Ms James: We will follow that up.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman (and its predecessors) has finalised the following audits each financial year:

Financial year	Number of audits finalised
2012-13	5,675
2011-12	6,547
2010-11	6,779
2009-10	3,678
2008-09	7,080
2007-08	4,800
2006-07	3,100