

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0139_14

Senator Cameron asked on 27 February 2014 , Hansard page 23

Question

FWO - Number of complaints in relation to apprentices, trainees and employees

Senator CAMERON: How many complaints does the Fair Work Ombudsman receive in relation to wage entitlements and compliance in the domestic building sector each year, in relation to apprentices, trainees and employees? Ms James: Just to clarify, you are asking about all employees? Senator CAMERON: No—apprentices and trainees. Ms James: I do not think we would have that broken down, would we? I can tell you that, in terms of total complaints in the domestic building and construction industry, for the last financial year the figure was 2,297. So obviously a component of that would be, or may well be, apprentices and trainees, but we would need to take the specifics about that group on notice. Senator CAMERON: Given you have got these horrendous figures of exploitation in your compliance audit, would you not now think it is appropriate that you start digging into the other 2,297 and be able to advise the Senate on exactly what is happening and why our young workers are being so ruthlessly ripped off in the domestic building industry? Ms James: We are happy to take it on notice giving you a breakdown of the figures you asked about.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman's systems do not enable the further breakdown of the 2,297 complaints received relating to the domestic building and construction sector in the 2012-13 financial year.