

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

Department of Employment Question No. EM0142_14

Senator Cameron asked on 27 February 2014, Hansard page 28

Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EM0005_14.

Question

FWO - Inspectors involved in targeted campaigns

Senator CAMERON: On those ones—hospitality, take-away food, road freight transport and misclassification—that is your forward plan. Could you take on notice and provide me with details of the number of frontline inspectors that will be involved in these campaigns? Mr Ronson: Sure. Senator CAMERON: Do you think you need any additional resources to carry these out? Mr Ronson: One good news story for the Fair Work Ombudsman is that we have been enhancing our resourcing in the targeting campaign sector for about the last 18 months. The numbers of inspectors in the so-called proactive campaigns has been increasing. Senator CAMERON: How many are in it? Mr Ronson: We have a dedicated targeted national campaigns team and the numbers that I looked at recently were around 42 ASL, but I will take that on notice. Obviously, when we answer your question we will— Senator CAMERON: 42 ASL? Mr Ronson: Forty-two ASL—42 full-time employees. Senator CAMERON: So that is for proactive, targeted campaigns nationally? Mr Ronson: Yes.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has a national Targeted Campaigns team which is primarily tasked with conducting targeted campaigns. As at 28 February 2014, the team had 39 staff with a full time equivalent staffing level of 36.5. Three of the 39 positions are non-Inspector staff.

The number of staff involved in a particular targeted campaign can vary throughout the duration of the campaign. All Fair Work Inspectors have the capacity to undertake campaign work and other Inspectors are regularly assigned to work on targeted campaigns where the campaigns require additional resources.

Campaign teams are also supplemented with staff from the Communications, Media and Education teams.