

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Agency - Fair Work Building & Construction

Department of Employment Question No. EM0158_14

Senator Cameron asked on 27 February 2014 , Hansard page 47

Question

FWBC - Rate of industrial disputes

Senator CAMERON: Mr Hadgkiss, can you confirm that under Fair Work the rates of industrial disputes are on average around one-third those we saw under the Howard government? Mr Hadgkiss: As I understand, industrial disputes are up. Senator CAMERON: What is your understanding? Mr Hadgkiss: My understanding from the Bureau of Statistics to do with the— Senator CAMERON: So, what you are relying on are the ABS? Mr Hadgkiss: Exactly that. I recall the industrial disputes. Senator CAMERON: You might like to take that on notice and give me what your detailed understanding is. Mr Hadgkiss: I am happy to.

Answer

Prior to the start of the ABCC, the rate of industrial disputes in the building and construction industry was an average of 5 times higher than the average of the most recent 12 months.

Since the cessation of the ABCC, the rate of industrial disputes in the building and construction industry has been more than double, on average, than it was for the duration of the ABCC.

Average days lost per quarter (per '000 workers)			
	Pre-ABCC (Mar 1996 - Dec 2005)	During ABCC (Mar 2006 - Jun 2012)	After ABCC (Sep 2012 - Sep 2013)
Building and Construction Industry	97.9	8.4	18.6
All Industries	18.4	4.1	4.5