

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE Additional Estimates 2013-2014

Outcome 1 - Employment

Department of Employment Question No. EM0174_14

Senator Lines asked on 27 February 2014, Hansard page 87

Refers to previous Department of Employment Question No EM0022_14

Question

Job Services Australia

Senator LINES: I might come to that question, but as Senator Ludwig corrected, we are asking now what consultations, because you said you consulted regularly. Ms Leon: About what consultations we have had and not what we are doing? Senator LINES: No. I am sorry if I was not clear. What consultations have you had? Did the minister or assistant minister attend and how many providers attended? We are happy to take that on notice. Ms Leon: There have been a lot, so we are happy to take that on notice. Senator Abetz: I do not know if you are just asking about the department consultations. They might have records of that, but I am not minded to go through my diary to find out all the consultations that I have been involved in and Minister Hartsuyker as well. Some of them are, from time to time, just telephone calls that are made to Minister Hartsuyker and indeed to our advisers as to what might be a good idea. They are mentally stored or a note is written, but to try to indicate all of those consultations would be very difficult. Senator LUDWIG: Just to interrupt, I think that is reasonable. It is only where the department would have dealt with the consultations, but also you can include whether the minister or assistant minister was involved or met; in other words, where you have arranged the consultations. That limits it to the department's ability to search their records. Senator Abetz: I put on the record that I personally have done a roundtable just the other night with a number of providers where departmental officials were not present. I would not want anybody to think that when the answer comes back on notice that means myself or indeed Minister Hartsuyker may not have been as engaged as— Senator LUDWIG: The department can note that in the reply.

Answer

The department meets regularly with employment service providers and other stakeholders to discuss issues relating to the employment services sector. On occasions discussions have included post-June 2015 employment service arrangements (for example, the introduction of independently certified Quality Standards from 1 July 2015). As the Minister for Employment indicated at the 27 February 2014 hearings of the Senate Education and Employment Legislation Committee the Minister for Employment and the Assistant Minister for Employment have had other meetings with stakeholders that have included discussion of post-June 2015 employment service arrangements which the department did not attend.