



STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

JEREMY HANSON MLA (CHAIR), MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), MARK PARTON MLA,
SUZANNE ORR MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
9 November 2017

Asked by MR PETERSSON:

In relation to:

MR PETERSSON: Isn't the premise though of proactive visits to reduce the number of reactive visits?

Mr Jones: Look, that is the aim. Part of, I guess, the engage and educate approach which is combined with our proactive visits, the aim is clearly to prevent injury. Obviously our goal is to have no injuries or minimal injuries and the proactive program aims at that.

So I guess the intensity of our education programs and the information we put out there as well as our proactive visits is aimed at doing that and I believe that is working. Even though those reactive visits are still increasing, my view would be that they are increasing at a slower rate than they would be if we did not have the intensity of our proactive program.

Mr Peffer: I might just add to that. So something we have worked on quite hard over the last couple of years is building strong connections and relationships with industry and industry groups. And one of the benefits of having a relationship like that or a strengthened relationship is that often we have strong engagement from employers or employees.

You know, perhaps before a concrete pour is done we receive a call, not because something has gone wrong, which used to be the case, but just to come and run a second set of eyes over it to make sure it is safe. So even though we are reacting to a call that might be coming in to the organisation, it is coming in sort of a proactive fashion. So it is pushing our reactive visits up there but it is in quite a positive way.

THE CHAIR: Are you able to separate those two out? One which is a sort of, "Something has gone wrong," as opposed to one that is, you know, "Come and check, you know, make sure it is,"—I mean, can you provide that? Because otherwise it is ...(indistinct)... [9.25.03] reactive when it is potentially not such a reactive call but it is a—

MR PETERSSON: That sounds almost like a proactive visit to me, not a reactive visit.

THE CHAIR: Sort of separate categories between the two, yes.

Mr Peffer: I suppose it is a definitional thing where, in fact, we are reacting to something that has come into the organisation. It is not part of a proactive campaign. But it is not after something has gone potentially wrong.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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THE CHAIR: But maybe in a question on notice, and you may not have that information this time, if you can provide a sort of analysis that, you know, although it was reactive there were a certain number that were, you know, in anticipation of an activity as opposed to following an incident.

Mr Peffer: We would probably—to pull that data out we would probably have to manually go through each visit form to separate that out.

THE CHAIR: And if that is not feasible for this annual report, perhaps in future if you can just be mindful of that so that then it gives a bit of clarity about—

Mr Peffer: Yes, if we can categorise that in the future, yes.

THE CHAIR: —you know, what is actually going wrong as opposed to—whereas industry actually saying, “Look, we want to work cooperatively,” so—you know?

Mr Peffer: Yes.

MINISTER RAMSAY: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:—

During 2016/17, WorkSafe ACT conducted 1,933 proactive work place inspections and 2,990 reactive work place inspections.

A proactive inspection is where an inspector visits a worksite to engage/educate on work health and safety issues as well as to conduct pre-planned random compliance visits. A reactive inspection involves an inspector reacting to a call-out or complaint concerning an alleged breach of work health and safety legislation.

WorkSafe ACT will look to improve the level of detail in reporting proactive inspections for future years.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism

Signature:

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By the Minister for Regulatory Services, Gordon Ramsay MLA