

Question on Notice

No. 375

Asked on Thursday 9 March 2006

MR HAYWARD ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT, TRAINING AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS AND MINISTER FOR SPORT (MR BARTON)—

QUESTION

How many notifications of workplace bullying, if any, would his department receive annually and what assistance can his department provide to victims?

ANSWER

The *Workplace Health and Safety Act 1995* places an obligation on employers and others at workplaces to ensure workplace health and safety. This includes identifying and managing exposure to risks created by workplace harassment.

There were approximately 157,628 businesses employing staff in Queensland (ABS June 2004). In this context the focus of Workplace Health and Safety Queensland in the Department of Industrial Relations is to assist employers to implement the necessary policy and procedures to prevent workplace harassment.

To this end, a Code of Practice on preventing workplace harassment has been published. The Code assists employers to identify existing and potential risk practices and behaviours, as well as provide advice on ways to prevent and control workplace harassment.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland's telephone advisory service also provides information on workplace harassment and avenues for internal resolution.

In the 2004-05 financial year Workplace Health and Safety Queensland received:

- 44 workplace harassment complaints to the inspectorate; and
- 16 incident notifications of a psychiatric/psychological illness where workplace harassment has been a significant contributing factor to the worker's illness.

When Workplace Health and Safety Queensland receives a workplace harassment complaint, the focus is to assist the employer and complainant to resolve the issue in the workplace.