

QUESTION ON NOTICE

No. 707

asked on 27 May 2021

MR R STEVENS ASKED THE MINISTER FOR EMPLOYMENT AND SMALL BUSINESS AND MINISTER FOR TRAINING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT (HON D FARMER) —

QUESTION:

Will the Minister advise (reported separately for 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years) (a) the number of bullying and harassment complaints made by Department of Employment, Small Business and Training staff and (b) the number and type of disciplinary action taken in each of these years in response to these complaints?

ANSWER:

The Department of Employment, Small Business and Training (DESBT) is committed to developing and maintaining a safe, healthy working environment free from all forms of harassment, workplace bullying, discrimination and violence.

During the 2019-20 financial year DESBT received two bullying and/or harassment complaints from staff.

When complaints are received by staff, the department follows its policies and procedures to explore and investigate the complaints to determine whether the allegations can be substantiated. Neither of the matters raised in 2019-20 resulted in disciplinary action, as the complaints could not be substantiated.

To date during the 2020-21 financial year, DESBT has received three bullying and/or harassment complaints. Following investigations, two of the matters have concluded without any disciplinary action taken; one matter is still under investigation.