

Question on Notice

No. 407

Asked on 21 May 2014

MRS MILLER asked the Attorney-General and Minister for Justice (Mr JARROD BLEIJIE) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the QIRC (Queensland Industrial Relations Commission) statement dated 4 February 2014 (and published on its website on 6 February 2014) stating inter alia the priority awards identified by the Vice-President to be modernised — Is the Attorney-General aware of:

- (a) any differences in the group of priority awards identified by the Vice-President from those identified as priorities in the Attorney-General's amendment notice of 3 February 2014; and
- (b) any reason why the priorities identified by the Minister in his award modernisation request differ from the priorities identified by the Vice-President of the commission?

ANSWER:

I thank the Member for Bundamba for her question.

We are delivering on our commitment to deliver better infrastructure and better planning and revitalise frontline services as part of our strong plan for a brighter future.

Labor's health payroll debacle highlighted the unsustainable complexity of the current arrangements and the urgent need to simplify the system.

Award modernisation was undertaken by the former Federal Labor Government and Queensland will follow a similar process to that used by the Fair Work Commission.

These reforms will deliver a modern, flexible industrial relations framework that protects employees, reduces duplication, simplifies administration and better serves the people of Queensland.

Fire Auxiliaries were included in paragraph 18(d) 'Priority Industries and/or Occupations' of the amended Award Modernisation Request.

Ms Dianne Linnane, Vice President of the Queensland Industrial Relations Commission, wrote to me on 4 February 2014 advising the following:

"I acknowledge your reference to fire auxiliaries in your list of priority industries and/or occupations. I have not included it as a priority for the Commission at this time. There has been an Application lodged in the Industrial Registry for the United Firefighters' Union of Australia, Union of Employees, Queensland (UFU) (A/2014/1) seeking an award for fire auxiliaries and correspondence has been received from the UFU to the effect that it does not believe that their application should be part of the award modernisation process.

At first glance it would seem appropriate for the Team to deal with fire auxiliaries at the same time as the fire occupation as a whole is being considered for award modernisation. In the meantime, I have arranged for the parties to any potential fire auxiliaries award to become involved in a conciliation process before a Commissioner. I will however keep you informed as to the progress of fire auxiliaries.”