

**Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0686\_11**

**Senator Siewert provided in writing.**

**Question**

**ABCC - SECRET BALLOTS**

How much has been spent by the Australian Electoral Commission on holding secret ballots for protected industrial action since they were introduced?

**Answer**

The Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations (DEEWR) manages the administered appropriation for the Protected Action Ballots Scheme (PABS). Under the scheme, DEEWR reimburses the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) for costs associated with protected action ballots.

For the period March 2006 to 31 March 2011, PABS expenditure totals for all ballots conducted across industries (including the building and construction industry) was \$2,907,775.

The department is unable to obtain a breakdown by industry of the costs of conducting protected action ballots.