

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No.EW0787_11

Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 50.

Question

DATES OF ANNUAL REPORT OF FAIR WORK AUSTRALIA

Senator ABETZ—Thanks, Chair, and thanks to members of Fair Work Australia. Mr Giudice, we have got before us the annual report of Fair Work Australia, signed by you on 4 October 2010, to the minister. I am wondering if anybody from Fair Work Australia can advise when that would have been communicated to the minister's office. If you do not know, we will take that on notice. Also, could I ask the minister's office when they received it and when they tabled it, because if my recollection is right, by our Senate estimates, which were on 20 and 21 October last year, we still had not actually been provided of a copy of the annual report. So, given that Mr Giudice had signed off on it on 4 October, there were 16 days to be able to get it to members of parliament and senators prior to the estimates hearing. So if both Fair Work Australia and the minister's office can take on notice the various dates of dispatch, delivery and then sending out, that would be very helpful. It seems to me, with the time frame, it could have been made available—and if it was made available, then clearly it is something in my office that meant I had not received it. Mr Evans—I got the Fair Work Ombudsman—I think you asked about the Fair Work Ombudsman, which was provided in time. In fact, I received it on Friday, which was the first day of the month, and signed off on the Sunday; that is how diligent I was. I do not have the information you seek at the moment, but I will get that. Senator ABETZ—Yes. With the Ombudsman's, you signed off on it, but we need to know when it was actually tabled and provided to the Senate for senators to actually be provided with it. Mr Evans—The Ombudsman's was tabled at 6 October, three days later. Senator ABETZ—On 6 October? Mr Evans—That is what my information is. This is the Ombudsman's report. I will stand to be corrected, but my information was it was received from the Ombudsman on Friday, 1 October in my office. I signed off on it on Sunday, which was the third. Senator ABETZ—After having read it all weekend. Mr Evans—Yes. Anyway, I will come back to you on both of those. Senator ABETZ—Yes, all right. Mr Lee—Likewise, I do not personally have any recollection of those particular dates, so I am happy to take it on notice.

Answer

Fair Work Australia wrote to the Minister on 30 September 2010 seeking approval to print and table the annual report. The report was approved by the Minister on 4 October 2010. The report was provided to the tabling office as soon as possible after printing was completed.

The Fair Work Australia annual report was tabled in both the House of Representatives and the Senate on 26 October 2010.

Note: the tabling guidelines provided to departments by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, state that the deadline for tabling annual reports is 31 October.