

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW1060_12

Senator Abetz asked on 15 February 2012 , Hansard page 9

Question

FWA - Legal costs

Senator ABETZ: The documentation that we sought under freedom of information. We only got Australian Government Solicitor bills. Clearly the legal bill is a lot bigger than the \$912,562 we were told about yesterday. Ms O'Neill: I have information about the legal expenditure at large, but can I also just say that I will take that on notice but my very clear understanding is that all documents within the scope of the applications have been identified and where possible disclosed.

Answer

FWA has provided the following response.

The FOI request from Mr Chris Fryar dated 1 September 2011 requested the following documents:

1. The initiation, method of conduct, parameters, progress, or the conclusion of its inquiry into the Health Services Union (HSU) and, specifically, its former national secretary, Mr Craig Thomson
2. All communications between FWA and Government Ministers and Departments, agencies or office relating to the above
3. Any Statutory Declaration given to FWA by Mr Thomson, detailing Mr Thomson's position in relation to this inquiry

The legal invoices considered to fall within the scope of the FOI request were provided to the applicant on 8 February 2012. FWA has incurred further legal costs from both AGS and Corrs Chambers Westgarth in relation to matters not directly related to the conduct of the investigation which were outside the scope of the FOI request, and therefore not required to be included in the FOI material provided.