

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0892_13

Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013 , Hansard page 34

Question

Unpaid wages

Senator ABETZ: With unpaid wages, you collect them when you can and try to find the worker to whom the money is owed. Can you just give us an indication of how much money the ombudsman is currently holding in trust? Mr Scully: I can answer that. These numbers are as at 31 December 2012. We are holding a total of \$2,355,000 and that is on behalf of almost 9,000 people—8,895 to be exact. Senator ABETZ: All right. Do you have that conveniently split up or not—as in three months outstanding or six months or 12 months? If not, and possibly for time anyway, can we take that on notice, please? Mr Scully: I have got it, but I can also take that on notice. Senator ABETZ: Could you provide it to us on notice and also what the largest amount owed in that figure is and the length of time that you have held an amount in trust.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) can confirm that as at 31 December 2012, it held \$2 355 948.60 in unclaimed money, for 8895 people. As at 31 December 2012, the FWO had held this money for the following periods:

0-90 Days (\$)	91-180 Days (\$)	> 180 Days (\$)	Total (\$)
480,510 (20%)	145,387 (6%)	1,730,052 (74%)	2,355,949

As at 31 December 2012, of the \$2 355 948.60 held by the FWO, the largest individual amount of unclaimed money held was \$14 145.81, and the longest length of time an individual amount of money held was 6 years and 266 days.