

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

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

Outcome 5 - Workplace Relations

DEEWR Question No.EW0311_12

**Senator Fisher asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 119.
Question**

FWA President

Senator FISHER: Okay. I do not want to overstate it, but in referring to that turn of phrase the President indicated that he had had discussions not unrelated to that sort of issue and had, more particularly, written on that issue `to ministers Reith, Abbott and Andrews but not, he thought, Hockey. Is the department able to dig out and provide the committee with copies of that correspondence and any responses thereto?

Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice. I am not even sure whether we still have it on record.

Ms Paul: At any rate, it is not practice to provide documents from former governments. We do not provide documents from former government to the current government, for example.

Senator FISHER: I am not the current government.

Ms Paul: I am happy to take it on notice and have a look at it. But there may be nowhere we can go.

Answer

It would not be appropriate for the department to provide to the Committee confidential documents of former Ministers in previous governments, which do not relate to the functions or expenditure of this department.