

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

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

Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0273_13

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 67

Question

Fair Work Division, and case No. NSD613 of 2012

Senator ABETZ: Let's go to the Federal Court of Australia, fair work division, and case No. NSD613 of 2012, which is an application by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations intervening in a matter—namely, the Health Services Union. Can we be told when the potential of this intervention was first raised by the minister with the department? Mr Kovacic: We will take the precise date on notice, but I would say it would be early April. Senator ABETZ: If you can give us the exact date of that, that would be very helpful. It was the minister approaching the department about the possibility of such an intervention? Mr Kovacic: My recollection is that it was. Senator ABETZ: So it was not a department initiated suggestion. Mr Kovacic: It was a request for advice from the minister, from my recollection. Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Can you advise us when the minister's intended intervention was first publicly announced? Mr Kovacic: I would have to take that on notice; but, from memory, it would be pretty close to Anzac Day or shortly thereafter.

Answer

Advice in relation to a possible application to have an administrator appointed to the Health Services Union was first sought by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations from the Department on 27 March 2012. The Minister publicly announced his intervention in a media release on 26 April 2012.