

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

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

**Agency - Fair Work Australia**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0159\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 26**

**Question**

**FWA - Investigation of all credit card transactions**

Senator ABETZ: Because doesn't it stand to reason that, if this one is correct, there could be other credit card transactions with quite innocuous-sounding names that were not fully investigated which might reveal an even greater engagement with escort agencies? Ms O'Neill: We will have a look at that issue in relation to the allegation that has been raised. Senator ABETZ: Can you come back to us on notice with that and the reason that this particular one was not picked up. Ms O'Neill: There may not be a complete answer to that. A series of company searches were undertaken, and that did not arise through the course of the investigation.

**Answer**

*Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.*

During the course of the National Office investigation many searches were undertaken for information relating to transactions that appeared on Mr Thomson's HSU credit card statements. Despite these extensive searches there were a number of transactions where the nature of the business was unable to be identified.

In relation to the specific question of the payment to "Internat Immobiliare", an ASIC search was undertaken on 7 November 2011. The ASIC search result did not reveal the nature of any business/es operated by the company.

The General Manager's capacity to pursue the issue in court proceedings is not however limited by the findings of the investigation. Subject to legal advice, it will therefore be pursued in the pending Court proceeding against Mr Thomson and others.