

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0150_13

Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 14

Question

FWA - Extra work generated by Craig Thomson's denial of allegations

Senator ABETZ: That is what I have done. Were Fair Work Australia put to extra work as a result of Mr Thomson's denials? Ms O'Neill: I will take that on notice for this reason: it would depend in part on the chronology and the timing of the interview with Mr Thomson and subsequent communication. But it would seem to me that, for a proper and thorough investigation, all of the relevant material needs to be considered, and that includes the extensive documentary evidence in addition to the interviews with a range of officials and officers of the union. So it may be, but I would prefer to take it on notice.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.

The Delegate found in chapter 21 of the National Office Report that Mr Thomson had provided him with information that was "false or misleading".

As a result of such findings, the Delegate made further inquiries regarding the information that he considered was "false or misleading" which may not otherwise have been necessary.

This is a matter that will ultimately be determined by proceedings in the Federal Court of Australia.