

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

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

**Agency - Fair Work Australia**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0166\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 40**

**Question**

**FWA - Australia's maritime union**

Senator ABETZ: Because we had a front page story just recently where Australia's maritime union, which is affiliated with and a major donor to the Labor Party, is hindering police and government efforts to clean up the ports. I wonder whether a statement such as that might excite Fair Work Australia to consider whether, if that is what is being alleged, then it might be just possible that the administration of the organisation may not necessarily be all that it should be. Ms O'Neill: I will take the question on notice but, as I understand the press reports you are talking about, they are literally from yesterday or perhaps the day before. Senator ABETZ: That is right.

**Answer**

*Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:*

Fair Work Australia is aware of an article that appeared on the front page of the Sydney Morning Herald on 25 May 2012 by Nick McKenzie and Richard Baker entitled "Crime groups rife at ports, inquiry finds".

None of the allegations set out in the article concern matters regarding which Fair Work Australia is able to conduct an inquiry or investigation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.

The Maritime Union of Australia is subject to the same audit procedures that are undertaken by Fair Work Australia concerning the compliance by all registered organisations with their regulatory obligations under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009*.