

**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. EW0291_13

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 78

Question

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. The minister also told us in an answer: We are going through it and we are certainly drawing it to the attention of the regulatory authorities to which we can. I then asked in writing the next day: Can details be provided as to which other agencies the Minister has referred the report, including: (a) the time and date of each referral; and (b) a copy of the covering letter accompanying each referral. I was told, 'The report is a public document and as such is available to any interested parties.' But the minister had promised: We— whoever that is, undoubtedly the royal plural here— are certainly drawing it to the attention of the regulatory authorities to which they can. What did the minister do? CHAIR: That is what has been taken on notice. Ms Paul: We will take that on notice. Senator Jacinta Collins: We will take that on notice more broadly than in your question with respect to the ATO, in the spirit of this parliamentary question.

Answer

As the Fair Work Australia report into the Victorian No 1 Branch of the HSU was made publicly available on the Senate Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations website on 16 March 2012, it was available to all relevant authorities from that date.

In the case of the Australian Taxation Office (ATO), the ATO advised Minister Shorten's office on 19 March that they were aware of the report into the Victorian No. 1 Branch of the Health Services Union and, as such, formal referral to the ATO was not necessary.