

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2013-2014**

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0089_14

Senator Bilyk asked on 3 June 2013, Hansard page 33

Question

FWO - Cost to handle bullying claims

Senator BILYK: There is a proposal by the government currently before the parliament proposing that bullying claims could be taken to the Fair Work Commission, and the government has provided funding in the budget to assist the commission to deal with those claims. I understand the opposition have some amendments before the House of Representatives to require a complainant to have the issue raised with Fair Work Ombudsman or with Safe Work Australia. I am trying to get some information—and you may need to take this on notice—about what the cost might be to the Fair Work Ombudsman if it were required to deal with bullying claims before they are able to be to the Fair Work Commission. I am talking in areas such as telephone advice, telephone counselling, mediation on the telephone, maybe face-to-face mediation as well, and any sort of investigation or inspection. Mr Campbell: We have done no costing or analysis to that effect as we have not been part of the policy development or the framework. I am happy to look to see what information we could provide around the cost of our services. It might be unit cost and it might not be specific to bullying, only that it is not something we currently do. Senator BILYK: Could I get you take that on notice and maybe base it, for example, around assuming there is about 3,000 claims per year in those areas? Mr Campbell: I will give it a go. We will just probably need to compare it against an existing service we provide to say that a cost of these types of calls or a cost of an investigation into this type of matter takes this type of time. Perhaps we could get somewhere there, but I will need to go back through it.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response.

The Fair Work Ombudsman has not undertaken any costings in relation to this proposal.