

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Outcome *Corporate*

DEEWR Question No. **EW795_10**

Senator Cash asked on Wednesday 21 October, EEWHR Hansard page 99

Question

Senator CASH—Is the department able to provide a copy of Tom Bentley's ministerial staff statement of private interests under the ministerial code of conduct?

Ms Paul—I imagine not, and it would not be a matter for us, it would be a matter for—

Senator Arbib—That would not be held with the department; that would be held at a ministerial level.

Ms Paul—That would be, if anything, a department of finance issue.

Senator CASH—So you are saying it is the wrong department to actually—

Ms Paul—I would expect so, but we can take it on notice and let you know where the correct place is, if you like.

Answer

The Department does not have a copy of Mr Bentley's statement of private interests.

The statements of private interests that are made by staff employed by Ministers under the *Members of Parliament (Staff) Act 1984* are between the staff member and the Minister and are confidential to the staff member and the Minister. This Act is administered by the Department of Finance and Deregulation.

The Minister for Education, Employment and Workplace Relations has advised that she does not intend to release the statement of private interests provided to her by Mr Bentley.