

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES 2015-16

Finance Portfolio
20 October 2015

Department/Agency: Australian Electoral Commission
Outcome/Program: General
Topic: Australian Workers Union donation

Senator: Abetz

Question reference number: F10

Type of question: Hansard Proof, F&PA Committee, Page 40, 20 October 2015

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Question:

Mr Pirani: We have the returns that the Australian Labor Party lodged in 2015 and one of those returns includes for the 2007-08 financial year an amendment that included that it received a donation from the Australian Workers Union in the amount of \$12,238, which appears to be their contribution for the salary of the person that Unibilt paid for.

Senator ABETZ: But that should have been disclosed all the way back then.

Mr Pirani: That is correct.

Mr Rogers: At the time.

Senator ABETZ: And it was not.

Mr Pirani: That is correct.

Senator ABETZ: Has the Australian Workers Union since disclosed this donation to the Australian Electoral Commission?

Mr Pirani: I am not aware of there being an amended return for 2007-08 lodged by the AWU, but I will take that on notice.

Answer:

No. The Australian Workers Union National Office was an associated entity of the Australian Labor Party during the 2007–08 financial year. It is therefore excluded from the legal obligation to lodge a return disclosing its donations for the 2007–08 financial year pursuant to subsection 305B(5) of the *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918* (the Act). The union has fulfilled its disclosure obligations under the Act.