

Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee
ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET ESTIMATES HEARINGS– OCTOBER 2016

Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio

Department/Agency: Office of the Commonwealth Ombudsman

Outcome/Program:

Outcome 1. Fair and accountable administrative action by Australian Government entities and prescribed private sector organisations, by investigating complaints, reviewing administrative action and statutory compliance inspections and reporting.

Topic: Fair Work Building Construction

Senator: Senator Abetz

Question reference number: 74

Type of question: FPA Committee - 17 October 2016

Date set by the Committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2016

Senator ABETZ: I have a bracket of questions relating to your oversight of the FWBC and its compulsory powers. When was the Ombudsman first required to undertake that task?

Mr Neave: The task under the current legislation commenced some time ago.

Senator ABETZ: Can you recall exactly when? Was it June 2012?

Mr Neave: It certainly was around about June 2012. It was before my time as Ombudsman. I was not the Ombudsman at the time that that work commenced.

Senator ABETZ: But if I were to say June 2012, is there anybody who can contradict that and say that I have something wrong by saying June 2012?

Mr Neave: It sounds right. We should have a more precise answer, but it sounds right.

Number of pages: 1

Question:

Senator ABETZ:

Questions relating to your oversight of the FWBC and its compulsory powers:

1. When was the Ombudsman first required to undertake that task?

Answer:

1. The *Fair Work (Building Industry) Act 2012* commenced on 1 June 2012 and the Commonwealth Ombudsman's oversight of the FWBC Director's examination powers also commenced on that date.