

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE  
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

**Cross Portfolio**

**DEEWR Question No.EW0786\_11**

**Senator Abetz asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 20.**

**Question**

**DATES OF THE ANNUAL REPORT OF THE OMBUDSMAN**

Senator ABETZ—I was going to start off with a question which we will have to put on notice, but I notice that the annual report of the Ombudsman was signed by Mr Wilson on 27 September. I then put a question on notice and I was told the report was received by the minister's office on 1 October, with the accompanying brief, signed by the minister, on 6 October 2010. I am just wondering when it then was sent out or tabled for senators and members of parliament. If I recall correctly, we did not have the annual report available to us for the Senate estimates that for this committee I think were on 20 and 21 October. It looks as though, in a timely fashion, Mr Wilson, you got it to the minister's office. It also seems the minister's office signed off on it relatively quickly, but then we had over a fortnight's hiatus. It might be that my office did not pick up on it, or it arrived at my office later, but, for my purposes, it was not available at Senate estimates. Having said that, thank you for all the questions that I put on notice that you have answered in the meantime. My request is more for the minister's office to answer.

**Answer**

The Fair Work Ombudsman wrote to the Minister on 30 September 2010 seeking approval to print and table the annual report. The report was approved by the Minister on 3 October 2010. It was provided to the tabling office as soon as possible after printing was completed.

The Fair Work Ombudsman annual report was tabled in the House of Representatives on 28 October 2010 and in the Senate on the next available tabling day 16 November 2010.

Note: the tabling guidelines provided to departments by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, state that the deadline for tabling annual reports is 31 October.