

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2011-2012**

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW1016_12

Senator Ronaldson provided in writing.

Question

FWA - Cooperation with state authorities

I refer to the correspondence between then-Fair Work General Manager Tim Lee and Commander Watson of the New South Wales Fraud & Cybercrime Squad between 24 and 26 of August 2011, as referred to by The Daily Telegraph on 11 January 2012. Mr Lee wrote that because Fair Work has no function under NSW law: I do not consider it appropriate for me, or for any of my staff, to meet with [New South Wales police] to discuss the Fair Work investigation into the HSU National Office. Is it Fair Work policy not to cooperate with other law enforcement agencies? Will Fair Work provide the report into Victorian No.1 branch to Victoria Police, or the Victorian Director of Public Prosecutions, if such a request is made? Will Fair Work require the full cooperation of its staff for any request made by state law enforcement authorities after the report is released?

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

1. Is it Fair Work policy not to cooperate with other law enforcement agencies?

Fair Work Australia will continue to seek to cooperate with any law enforcement agency, to the extent that would be consistent with the powers and functions under the relevant legislation.

2. Will Fair Work provide the report into Victorian No.1 Branch to Victoria Police, or the Victorian Director of Public Prosecutions, if such a request is made?

Fair Work Australia has provided the Senate Estimates Committee on Education, Employment and Workplace Relations Legislation with a copy of the report of the investigation into the Health Services Union Victoria No. 1 Branch and it is now publicly available on the Senate Committee website.

3. Will Fair Work require the full cooperation of its staff for any request made by state law enforcement authorities after the report is released?

Refer to response EW1073_12.