

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Outcome 4 - Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0947_13

Senator Abetz asked on 13 February 2013 , Hansard page 124

*Refers to previous DEEWR Question No EW0036_13 and Parliamentary
Question 2534.*

Question

Relates to EW0036_13 and PQ 2534

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Let us turn to question No. 2534 and its answer. The question was—with reference to a particular question taken on notice—can a response be provided to part 1(a), which asked whether the referenced claims were in the spirit of the Fair Work Act 2009. Answer: the government notes your ongoing media monitoring efforts. Who was the smart Alec who tried to write that into the answer and why did you, Ms Paul, sign off on that answer? Given your new found environmental concern not to waste black ink, why was that sentence included?

CHAIR: Let us just have specific questions without any gratuitous comment.

Ms Paul: This is a parliamentary question?

Senator ABETZ: That is right.

Ms Paul: This is not a question that arose here; this is a parliamentary question.

Senator ABETZ: That is right.

Ms Paul: I do not know is the answer to that. I will have to look into it.

Senator ABETZ: Let us take this on notice in detail. Did that sentence in the answer emanate from the department or the minister's office?

Ms Paul: Yes, we will have to take that on notice.

Senator ABETZ: I want a specific answer in relation to that.

Ms Paul: I understand that.

Senator ABETZ: Thank you.

Ms Paul: For example, I cannot say here what is being sought.

Senator ABETZ: I am asking for an answer to 1(a), which asked whether the referenced claims were in the spirit of the Fair Work Act.

Ms Paul: Yes, but the referenced claims go back to EW0036, which I do not have in front of me. So I will have to take it on notice.

Answer

The sentence in question was not in the draft response provided by the Department.