

**SENATE STANDING COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS**

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
BUDGET ESTIMATES 2009-10**

Agency **Workplace Ombudsman**

DEEWR Question No. EW0250_10

Senator Abetz asked on 2 June 2009, EEWR Hansard page 25 - 26.

Question

Senator ABETZ—This is a regime that, I accept, we set up, but I do think that it might be worth while to have a look at the issue that if an employee has been underpaid then surely any interest earned on that, as a public policy consideration, ought to go to the employee rather than into consolidated revenue. But I accept that it was a regime we set up and therefore—

Senator Ludwig—I will take that on notice. I understand that you are not criticising your previous legislation in that comment but making a legitimate—

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Senator Ludwig—Also, we will have a look at what the current provision provides for with the new Fair Work Australia.

Answer

The Workplace Ombudsman has provided the following response:

All unpaid wages received by the Workplace Ombudsman are deposited into the Commonwealth's Consolidated Revenue Fund. Any interest earned on the Consolidated Revenue Fund is not credited to the Workplace Ombudsman and is not regulated under Workplace Relations laws.