

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No.EW0267_12

Senator Abetz asked on 30/05/2011, Hansard page 60.

Question

Trial Employment

Senator ABETZ: Can I ask whether the Ombudsman has had a spate—or whatever we would call it—of complaints in relation, especially, to young people being asked to undertake trial employment and then not being paid for that?

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman provided the following response.

In October 2010, the Fair Work Ombudsman introduced a new complaints management system. This system enables increased information to be recorded regarding the nature of complaints received.

Based upon the available data, from October 2010 to 31 May 2011, the Fair Work Ombudsman has not observed a spike in complaints relating to unpaid trial work.

Of the 148 complaints received in that period relating to unpaid work trials, approximately one quarter were from complainants under 21 years of age.