

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Australia

DEEWR Question No. EW0022_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

FWA- HSU

What is the total cost to date on the investigation into the Health Services Union? a. Please break down ie. AGS Fees, External Legal Fees, Staff Time, Staff Travel etc.

Answer

Fair Work Australia has provided the following response:

As at 30 April 2012, the cost in legal fees of the two investigations relating to the Health Services Union from the initial inquiry stage is \$1 309 722 excluding GST, comprising AGS fees of \$1 279 907, and other external provider fees of \$29 815.

External legal advice not incurred in the conduct of the investigations, such as subsequent advice and commencement of proceedings and ancillary matters such as advice concerning the provision of information to police is not included. As at 30 April 2012 the total external legal fees associated with the HSU investigations since 2008-09 was \$1,419,291 (excl GST).

Staff Time

Two officers of FWA have worked on the investigation with limited assistance from time to time. Mr Nassios has worked on the investigation in addition to his other workload for the majority of the investigation. While Ms Carruthers has worked on the investigation exclusively for periods of time, at other times, she has worked on the investigation in addition to her other workload. It is not practicable to apportion the total time that the two staff have worked on the investigation and thereby quantify the cost related to staff time.

Staff Travel

\$12 163.90 (excl. GST).