

Senate Standing Committee on Education Employment and Workplace Relations

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

Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0287_13

Senator Abetz asked on 29 May 2012 , Hansard page 74

Question

Briefing/discussions prior to the FWA report being released

Senator ABETZ: Thank you. Did the department have any prior information or any prior knowledge about the allegations swirling around about the Health Services Union prior to the Fair Work Australia report coming down, apart from that which was generally within the media? Senator Jacinta Collins: I do not quite understand that question. Senator ABETZ: Had the department been separately briefed? Was the department approached by, say, officials from the Health Services Union saying: 'We've got this problem in our union. How do we go about trying to fix it?' Mr Kovacic: We were certainly not approached by officials of the HSU. Senator ABETZ: Any other people? Mr Kovacic: I will take that on notice just to confirm it, but my recollection is we were not approached by any other people.

Answer

The Department did not have any information or any knowledge, other than what was reported in the media, of the allegations about the Health Services Union prior to the release of the Fair Work Australia report.