

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

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

**Agency - Fair Work Australia**

**DEEWR Question No. EW0156\_13**

**Senator Abetz asked on 28 May 2012 , Hansard page 23**

**Question**

**Settlement**

"Senator ABETZ: That stands to reason as most of these things are confidential. So I accept that. We now have a rare occasion-on page 16 of the Hansard chamber green, Mr Thomson acknowledges that he should not have used the word 'settlement' in relation to those defamation proceedings and that, rather, 'an agreement' would have been better. The suggestion that an offer had been made-did that suggest to you that there may have been a payment involved to Mr Thomson? ..... Ms O'Neill: The relevant person's mind, in terms of the question you asked, would have to be the delegate's and only the delegate's. I can take the question on notice and attempt to get an answer to it."

**Answer**

*Fair Work Australia has provided the following response.*

As stated by Ms O'Neill on page 24 of Hansard, the relevant person's view concerning whether the use of the term "settlement" suggested that a payment may have been made by Fairfax to Mr Thomson was that of the Delegate, Mr Nassios. Due to the absence of Mr Nassios on approved leave, Fair Work Australia is not able to state whether Mr Nassios formed such a view.