

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. EW0009_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

Dispute days

Is the Courier Mail article on 9 March 2012 titled ""Dispute days lost doubles"" accurate? a) If not, why not?"

Answer

The description "Dispute days lost doubles" is not correct. According to the ABS, Working days lost due to industrial disputes increased from 126,600 in 2010 to 241,500 in 2011.

Whilst this increase could be explained partly by a marked increase in the number of expiring agreements in 2011 compared to 2010, (in 2011, 8,335 agreements expired, compared to 5,133 in 2010), it is important to note that industrial disputes have been trending down over time.