

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

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

Agency - Fair Work Ombudsman

DEEWR Question No. EW0614_13

Senator Abetz asked on 17 October 2012, Hansard page 38

Question

FWO - Number of matters settled before hearing or dismissed by court

Senator ABETZ: It is clearly not resolved. The 51 matters you say were prosecuted—were all of those successful? I do not want to put words into your mouth. What did the 51 relate to again? Let's get that absolutely clear. Mr Ronson: There were 51 new matters commenced in court. Senator ABETZ: In a particular year? Mr Ronson: I do not think we have any information here about how many we actually won and lost during the year. Most of the matters remain before the court. I would have to take it on notice to give you a breakdown of the matters which have been finalised. Senator ABETZ: If you could, and if it is not too much work, let us know how many matters have been settled before hearing or been dismissed by the court—and whether those matters had media releases issued at the commencement of the proceedings and then media releases issued at either the settlement or dismissal of those proceedings. I hope that is sufficiently clear.

Answer

The Fair Work Ombudsman has provided the following response

The Fair Work Ombudsman (FWO) filed 51 proceedings in the 2011 – 2012 financial year. Of these 51 matters, 48 had media releases issued upon commencement of proceedings. As at 23 October 2012, no matters have been dismissed, 4 matters have been discontinued, 11 matters have been successful and 36 matters are ongoing.

Of the 4 discontinued matters, 3 matters had media releases issued upon conclusion. FWO entered into enforceable undertakings with respect to 2 of those discontinued matters, 1 matter was discontinued by consent, and 1 matter was discontinued as a result of the company going into liquidation.

All of the 11 successful matters had media releases issued upon conclusion of the matter.