

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

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

Outcome 4 – Workplace Relations and Economic Strategy

DEEWR Question No. EW0678_13

Senator Abetz asked on 17 October 2012 , Hansard page 118

Question

FWA did not intervene in industrial action

Senator ABETZ: Parliamentary Secretary, are you able to advise me of or take on notice the reason why the federal government did not seek to intervene at Fair Work Australia to bring an immediate end to industrial action that was threatening to cripple the automotive manufacturing sector in your home state around the first week of August 2012?

Senator Jacinta Collins: I will take that on notice.

Answer

The industrial action referred to relates to an automotive components manufacturer in Victoria. Protected industrial action commenced on 8 August 2012. The Minister for Employment and Workplace Relations spoke to representatives of the company and the union about the bargaining dispute shortly after the action commenced and encouraged them to seek the assistance of Fair Work Australia to resolve the dispute.

On Sunday 12 August 2012 the parties participated in mediation before Commissioner Wayne Blair of Fair Work Australia. During mediation the parties reached in-principle agreement. All industrial action ceased on 12 August 2012 and workers returned to work on 13 January.