

Senate Standing Committee on Education and Employment

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Budget Estimates 2014-2015**

Agency - Fair Work Commission

Department of Employment Question No. EM0776_15

Senator McKenzie provided in writing.

Question

FWC - Investigation into HSU

- What is the updated cost to date of the investigation into the Health Services Union and Mr Craig Thomson?
- Can a break down please be provided of those costs?
- What is the expected that the final cost will when this works its way through?

Answer

The investigation under the *Fair Work (Registered Organisations) Act 2009* into the National Office of the Health Services Union and its former National Secretary, Mr Craig Thomson, was completed on 28 March 2012. A contemporaneous investigation was also conducted by the Fair Work Commission into the Victoria No.1 Branch of the Health Services Union.

The total cost of external professional legal and accounting services for both investigations was \$1,291,748.34 (including GST). This comprises \$1,193,055.55 in external legal fees and \$98,692.79 in external forensic accounting fees.

No further expenditure will be incurred on the investigations.

The costs (including GST) of Federal Court proceedings concerning the Health Services Union as at 31 March 2014 are:

National Office proceedings	\$412,573.14
Craig Thomson proceedings	\$916,584.24
TOTAL:	\$1,329,157.38