

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2010-2011**

Agency - Australian Building and Construction Commission

DEEWR Question No.EW0695_11

Senator Cameron asked on 23/02/2011, Hansard page 97.

Question

ABCC - CORRESPONDENCE

Senator CAMERON—I want to ask a slightly different question. I need to understand why the ABCC took the operational decision to write one letter two weeks after a very serious incident and then did nothing till November on an issue that was publicly linked to the building and construction industry. Take that on notice and come back to me on that issue. Mr Johns—I will take it on notice.

Answer

The Office of the Australian Building and Construction Commissioner has provided the following response:

The ABCC assess the circumstances of each matter and determines its operational responses accordingly. The incident in NSW primarily involved an alleged criminal matter which is not within the jurisdiction of the ABCC to investigate. The incident in WA involved an alleged unlawful industrial dispute which is within the jurisdiction of the ABCC to investigate. This necessitated a different operational approach.