

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

**QUESTIONS ON NOTICE
Additional Estimates 2012-2013**

Agency - Fair Work Commission

DEEWR Question No. EW0777_13

Senator Abetz provided in writing.

Question

FWC - Budget saving measures

Further to the General Manager's correspondence to the Minister ahead of the last Budget, can the FWC please advise of all cuts or cost savings measures deployed over the last financial year and the saving generated by each measure?

Answer

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) has provided the following response.

Over the past 12 months, the FWC has undertaken organisation-wide changes to reduce costs and increase efficiency. The overall effect of the changes that have been made is savings in the order of \$6.8 million. However, it is not possible to itemize savings from each change. For example savings from alterations to the way work is performed, absorption of work, etc, cannot be readily itemised. Some of the most significant changes that have been introduced are:

- a flatter organisational structure of four branches (corporate services, client services, tribunal services and regulatory compliance) in lieu of six branches with fewer management positions and more mobility and multi-skilling of staff
- a voluntary redundancy program
- different arrangements to deal with all telephone inquiries to the FWC
- reduced travel across the organisation and changes to the class of travel
- reduced reliance on external services including recruitment, advertising, switchboard, court attendant etc.
- reduction in subscription services and publications.